Rumsfeld offers passionate defense against recent criticism Page 7

STARS STRIPES.

Woman pays \$50.000 to clone cat

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Asian countries go low key to mark New Year

Eagles, **Steelers top Pro Bowl picks**

SATURDAY - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 - 26, 2004

A holiday tradition: The quest for last-minute gifts

Pacific shoppers make mad dash for stocking stuffers and more

Merry **Christmas**

- Lt. gen. helps with holiday mail at Yongsan Page 3
- Okinawa athletes make season special for children Page 5

To our readers:

Stars and Stripes will ot be printed on Dec. 26. Look for the next dition on Dec. 27.



Santa passes out candy canes at the New Sanno Hotel in Tokyo on Thursday. New Sanno employees and Camp Fuji servicemembers hosted 60 children from St. Joseph Orphanage for lunch and a visit from Santa, who handed out gifts.

第3種郵便物認可

COMING SOON



Scene on Sunday

Get a grip on sumo



Ben Stiller

Sunday

Celebrity news from Parade

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

Nation

Martha Stewart message: Martha Stewart, in a Christmas message posted on her personal Web site, called for sentencing reform and took

a swipe at the "bad food" in prison. Stewart, who is roughly halfway through a five-month sentence for lying about a stock sale, urged fans to think about the women she has met in prison who are "devoid of care, devoid of fove, devoid of fami-

She suggested Americans should push for reforms in federal sentencing guidelines for nonviolent first-time offenders and particularly for drug offenders, who she said would be better served by rehabilitation than prison.

Eric Rudolph case: A judge has ordered the government to show serial bombing suspect Eric Rudolph's defense any bomb replicas or sketches that it plans to use in his fed-

eral death penalty trial.

U.S. Magistrate Judge T. Michael Putnam, ruling on a series of defense motions Tuesday, said the government would not have to produce any bomb replicas or mock-ups that were put together in the investigation and were not "final" versions.

Rudolph's federal death penalty trial in the bombing is scheduled next year. He also is charged in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics bombing that killed a woman and two other blasts in Atlanta in 1997.

Severed arms report: A mother charged with killing her 10-month-old daughter by cutting off her arms tried to commit suicide the day after giving birth at home, according to a newspaper report citing medical records.

The Dallas Morning News reported in Thursday editions that medical records it obtained showed Dena Schlosser, 35, cut her wrist Jan. 10 and was treated at an emergen-

Doctors at three hospitals determined that she was psychotic or suffering from psychosis in addition to postpartum depression, the records showed.

Blake trial testimony: Robert Blake laughed and smiled as he dined with his wife the night she was shot, the restaurant's owner testified at the "Baretta" star's murder trial. Blake maintains he left Baklev in the car to

go back into Vitello's to retrieve a handgun he carried for protection and returned to find her bleeding.

A doctor testified he heard the actor calling out that his wife was bleeding and needed help, but said did not offer assistance because

El Gordo Christmas lottery: Cristobal Ortega, center, owner of a bri Lorca, Spain, celebrates Wednesday after he and several of his customers won a part of the top prize of yr, Spain's El crot (Fat One) Christmas lotter, Spain's El crot (Fat One) Christmas (Fat One) Christmas of shared numbers that divide wealth among millions of people holding numbers that go from 00001 to 65000.

he thought Blake's cries were insincere.

Priest shot by accuser: A priest facing trial next month for allegedly molesting a former altar boy who later shot him has been defrocked by Pope John Paul II, The Associated Press has learned.

Associated Press has learned.

Maurice Blackwell, 58, is scheduled to go
on trial Jan. 3 on four counts of child sexual
abuse against Dontee Stokes.

Blackwell was shot by Stokes in May 2002, in the midst of the national scandal involving Catholic priests. In the aftermath, Baltimore prosecutors reviewed Stokes' allegations and charged the priest with molesting Stokes.

He served a sentence of home detention.

Airport security change: In response to numerous complaints from women, the government has ordered airport security personnel to avoid touching female passengers between their breasts when performing patdowns.

Security screeners now will keep their hands to the "chest perimeter" of women unless detection equipment picks up the possibility that they are hiding explosives between their breasts.

The new method takes into consideration passenger discomfort while remaining steadfast in mitigating risks, said Transportation Security Administration spokesman Mark Hatfield.

Military

Raptor crash: An Air Force general said that he expects the F/A-22 Raptor to join combat operations by the end of next year despite this week's crash of one of the next-generation stealth fighter jets.

"We're going to keep right on going," Maj. Gen. Stephen M. Goldfein, the Air Warfare Center commander at Nellis, where the approximately \$133 million jet went down on a runway shortly after takeoff Monday.

The pilot suffered scrapes but was otherwise unharmed.

War on terrorism

Soldier charged: A judge on Wednesday ordered a soldier, his wife and her cousin to stand trial in an alleged plot to keep the enlisted man out of Iraq by shooting him in the leg.

Prosecutors said Army Spc. Marquise J. Roberts; his wife, Donna Roberts; and her cousin, Roland Fuller, had originally planned to find someone else to undertake the shooting but decided to do it themselves when they got no takers.

when they got no takers.

Marquise Roberts, 23, a supply specialist
who had spent seven months in Iraq, was
distraught about having to return to combat
duty and wanted to stay with his family, authorities said.
Military officials have said that Roberts

Military officials have said that Roberts could face military discipline if the charges prove to be true.

World

Spain bombings complaint: The Islamic Commission of Spain has asked the parliamentary panel probing the Madrid train bombings to refrain from referring to terrorists as "Islamic" or "Islamist," the leading daily El Pais said Thursday.

"Unfortunately, [these terms] are used too frequently in political, journalistic and editorial circles, almost on a daily basis, creating a public opinion of social, anti-Islamic alarm," the group's leader Ria Tatary said in a letter sent to the parliamentary commission.

He said several Muslims, including an imam, were killed in the March 11 attacks.

Ireland bank robbery: The outlawed Irish Republican Army denied involvement Thursday in this week's massive raid on the Northern Bank in Belfast.

In a message issued to Belfast media, the IRA said its members played no role in Monday's robbery, when a large and well-organized gang stole more than 22 million pounds from the bank's main underground vault.

ories and photo from wire services

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'Heartline' offers holiday comfort at Kunsan

BY FRANKLIN FISHER Stars and Stripes

PYONGTAEK South Korea - If airmen at remote Kunsan Air Base in South Korea feel downcast or otherwise troubled during this holiday season, an easy DSN phone number will connect them with fellow air

men waiting to help. Kunsan is offering Operation Heartline, a bank of phones staffed by airmen volun-teers who'll take calls inside the Sonlight Inn, a Christian coffee house the base chap

el sponsors. Heartline, at 782-7300, an on-base, DSN number, is to be in operation through Jan.

"Our primary focus is to get members through the holidays," said Master Sgt. Dana Belser of the 8th Medical Group. part of Kunsan's 8th Fighter Wing, known as the Wolf Pack. "We're this far away from loved ones, family and friends, and it is important that we hang on as a family, we here at the Wolf Pack

"Your typical situation might be of a

Phone bank to stay open through start of 2005

dorm member, let's say, who's kind of longing to be home, depressed, or just dealing with personal life struggles that are over-whelming for him." said Belser.

"And they just need to talk," he said. "So they might pick up the phone, they can give our Heartline a call, and there'll be someone on the receiving end to listen to that person - very empathetically listen and try to help the member as best they

can, through the situation." Many times, Belser said, that's all it takes to help someone through such bouts of homesickness or holiday blues: "just a

caring person, just willing to listen He said younger airmen on their first overseas tour are especially vulnerable to

"We're at a remote location," Belser said of Kunsan Air Base, which is on Korea's western seacoast and whose ranks consist mainly of unaccompanied airmen on one-year assignments

Whether a caller gives indications of being suicidal is among the first things volunteers will be listening for, Belser said.

"Do they want to harm themselves? If they're not suicidal, that's outstanding," he eaid

But if caller give signs of being suicidal. volunteers will ask whether he or she is willing to speak with a chaplain or psychologist, both of whom will be on call

Volunteers also are to alert the command post and have the psychologist or chaplain contacted immediately, Belser

If callers appear in no imminent danger of committing suicide or other violence, the volunteers are ready to be listening, empathetic presences. Belser said.

About 15 to 20 volunteers have responded to a recent e-mail Belser sent out on hase he said

One of them is Senior Airman Reniaya

Venson, 22, of Denver, assigned to the 8th Mission Support Squadron.

"I knew it was holiday time and I just wanted to help out anybody that may be having any difficulties being away from their family and friends, even if they just wanted to joke around or have a serious conversation," said Venson.

"Since it's a 'remote,' it's a foreign country, a lot of us have never been outside the United States so to have someone who has experienced the same thing as you, makes it a lot easier to deal with, being here.

'Me and a few of my friends, we experienced the separation of being away from our family and our friends in the United States," she said, "But once we met each other and got along, [it felt like being in] a family away from a family.

She's keeping one thing uppermost in her mind as she awaits whatever calls may come her way: "Everybody handles their situation differently, and I have to try to put myself in their shoes, and understand how they feel, before trying to help them. E-mail Franklin Fisher at: fisherf@pstripes.osd.mil

516th makes holiday mail push at Yongsan

Stars and Stripes

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea - It was three days before Christmas and the tractor trailer backed into the post office on the Main Post here in Seoul barely held enough packages to make Santa's sleigh sigh

But 500 pounds of parcels is nothing to sneeze at, as the 8th Army's commanders discovered Wednesday morning while helping the 516th Personnel Services Battalion sort some last-minute holiday mail.

Still, Wednesday's delivery caused barely a bulge in Santa's bag compared with the 80,000 pounds dispersed throughout South Korea in just one day last week, the most mail the 516th has had to handle in one day this holiday season, said Maj. Tanya Bradsher, a 516th company command-

By the time packages meant for Yongsan — ZIP codes 96203, 96204, 96205 and 96206 — arrived on Main Post for the 5 a.m. delivery Wednesday, they filled two tractor-trailers

"Every piece of mail is some-one's morale," said Lt. Col



Pfc. Maricela Diaz, 19, of Anaheim, Calif., helps 8th Army Commander Lt. Gen. Charles C. Campbell sort mail early Wednesday morning at the post office on Main Post at Yongsan Garrison, South Korea, Diaz and her company - with the general's help - sorted 500 pounds of parcels on Wednesday.

Donald Howell, the battalion's commander. "It's very special, especially at Christmas time."

Leading up to Christmas, the daily 5 a.m. shipments to Yongsan normally weigh about 3,000

pounds, Howell said.

Wednesday's 500-pound batch was unloaded in less than 15 minutes, with help from 8th Army Commander Lt. Gen. Charles C. Campbell and 8th Army and Com-

mand Sgt. Major Troy Welch, the top enlisted officer in U.S. Forces

Campbell, Welch and officers from 8th Army Personnel Com mand donned Santa hats and followed directions from members of the 516th's Delta Company. The commanders spent about a half an hour loading boxes onto conveyor belts, scanning labels into computers and putting individual letters in slots

"It's always uplifting, these great soldiers doing this great work," Campbell said Wednesday, taking a break from stuffing envelopes into cubby holes.

Then he looked at a letter and sked 20-year-old Pfc. Anjelica Miranda, "1st Com?" She nodded and watched him nut the letter in the appropriate slot.

Members of the 516th, like Miranda, will work Christmas Eve to ensure each piece of mail that arrives in South Korea by Friday will be distributed. Bradsher said. Three last-minute shipments will be flown to Taegu, Kimhae and Kwanju on Friday as well, she said.

"This time of the year it's tedious work." said Col. Michael Harris, brigade commander for

8th Army's personnel command and also postmaster general for the military in South Korea. "But we give them great service."

The post office's customer-service area on Main Post was renovated earlier this year, in part to allow for more cashiers and fewer lines. Harris said lines were pretty manageable on Main Post this year but admitted that boxes had stacked up in the lobby at the smaller post office on South

"We'll work on it." he said.

The post offices on Yongsan will be closed on the Mondays following the next two holiday weekends, as well as the federal holidays set for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. But the soldiers who deliver mail still will be working Christmas Eve; they'll take their day off on Monday.

That means the hard work for the 516th won't end on Christmas Day. More last-minute packages will be waiting for them after the three-day weekend.

"Next Tuesday will be huge," Bradsher said. "We'll have three days' worth of mail. We're going to get slammed."

E-mail Teri Weaver at: weavert@pstripes.osd.mil

South Korean foreign minister visits Camp Red Cloud, heaps praise on 2nd ID He also remembered the 35

BY TERI WEAVER

Stars and Stripes CAMP RED CLOUD, South

Korea - Offering "gratitude and appreciation" for serving on the front lines so far from home, South Korea's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade on Thursday thanked 2nd Infantry Division troops during his first visit to Warrior Country.

Ban Ki-moon used the trip to learn about 2nd ID's facilities and training, exchange Christ-mas gifts with soldiers and pledge South Korea's support for the U.S.-led Iraq invasion.

members of Strike Force - a brigade deployed to the war from 2nd ID this summer who have died in Iraq this fall. "Sometimes, it may seem a

hard task to guard the peace of a distant foreign country in such seemingly peaceful times," Ban told the crowd of about 70 in the Commanding General's mess hall at Red Cloud. "You may feel lonely. One of my purposes of visiting is to let you know you are not lonely, you are not

Ban also repeated his govern-

party" talks meant to address North Korea's nuclear program. The talks stalled this fall after Pyongyang leaders refused to return to the negotiating table, calling U.S. actions toward the communist nation hostile.

Ban and South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun visited their troops in Iraq earlier this month. South Korea has 3,600 deployed in Iraq, and the National Assembly is expected to vote before the end of the year on anone-year rotation for South Korean troops.

"I felt confident that peace

and stability will soon embrace the Iraqi people, with the help of the concerted efforts of the coalition forces and international society." Ban said Thursday. "In accordance with this cause, my government will extend the term of troop presence into the next year.

On Wednesday, leaders of South Korea's Uri Party visited Camp Casey for a briefing and a demonstration of a close-combat training facility. There, assembly members had a chance to ask questions about the U.S. military's presence and activi-ties.On Thursday, Ban's visit briefed, in private, for more than an hour with Gen. Leon J. LaPorte, U.S. Forces Korea commander; Air Force Maj. Gen. Thomas Kane, senior U.S. member of the U.N. Command Military Armistice Commission; Maj. Gen. George Higgins, 2nd ID commander; and Sgt. Maj. James Lucero, 2nd ID command sergeant major.

"I was just speechless," Ban said after his briefing. "2nd ID is a tradition second to none," he said, repeating a mantra of the

E-mail Teri Weaver at: weavert@pstripes.osd.mil

Panel: JMSDF helo crash caused by pilot error

BY GREG TYLER AND HANA KUSUMOTO

Stars and Strings

The Japan Maritime Staff Office's investigation panel said pilot error caused an accident with one of its MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopters, in which nine people were injured during last May's Friendship Day at Iwakuni

Marine Corps Air Station.

The panel concluded the pilot didn't fully understand the heli-

copter's features when hovering, a Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force spokesman in Ivakumi said Wednesday. The pilot also failed to verify the maneuver before craating a rotor wash that blew away the Friendship Day VIP tent, the spokesman said.

The mishap occurred at about 2:30 p.m. May 5, during a Sea Dragon demonstration as part of the event's air show

Some bystanders tried to hold down the VIP tent and were injured, as were some visitors seated under or walking directly behind the tent, U.S. officials said shortly after the accident. None of the injuries were life-threatening, they said.

The investigation also suggested the squadron commander failed to plan advance training, the spokesman added.

Two injured spectators were Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station residents; a man had a facial cut and a woman had a cut foot and twisted ankle. Both were treated at Iwakuni's Navy Branch Medical Clinic, base spokesman Capt. Stewart Upton said after the accident.

Four other people were transported by Japanese ambulance to Iwakuni National Hospital, including a 4-year-old boy with a facial cut and head nijury, a 4-year-old girl with a cut leg and a man and woman, each with facial lacerations. One child had minor cuts that did not require hospital treat-

ment, Upton added.

Two other injured male visitors

— one with an injured left knee
and another with a cheekbone
fracture and head injury — were
taken by Japanese ambulance to
Iwakuni Doctors' Association

Hospital, Upton said.

The JMSDF plans to take "some kind of action" against the pilot, the spokesman said.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tylerg@pstripes.osd.mil E-mail Hana Kusumoto at: kusumotoh@pstripes.osd.mil

Possible talks on USFJ realignment set for February, news agency says

BY VINCE LITTLE

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — A top Japanese Foreign Ministry official suggested Tuesday that Japan and the United States may conduct ministerial talks in February about the potential U.S. military realizmment in Japan. Kvodo News reported.

U.S. Forces Japan officials could not confirm the arrangement. Michael Boyle, a U.S. Embassy spokesman in Tokyo, said any decision to engage at that level would be made in Washington.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials, contacted Wednesday, said a time and place has not been determined for the proposed ministerial discussions.

Under the scenario, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, who's been nominated as a replacement for Secretary of State Colin Powell, would sit down with Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura and Defense Agency Director General Yoshinori Ono.

"What I've seen is the Japanese government expressing interest in seeing the talks take place in February," Boyle said Wednesday. "Any formal announcement from the U.S. side would come from Washington. The two-plus-two 'talks are supposed to be with the secretaries of State and Defense, so I have no idea which one would issue any statement.

"The issue has come up on several other occasions. There's certainly interest on both sides in pursuing that. But a decision to hold them would have to come from Washington."

Over the past two years, the United States and Japan have taken part in a series of discussions, floating different ideas about the potential reorganization and realignment of U.S. forces in Japan.

"We talk all the time," Marine Maj, James Bell, a USFJ spokesman, said Wednesday. "Japan is our most significant ally in the Asia-Pacific region, so we definitely talk frequently at different levels. Usually with something like this, there would be some sort of formal announcement made. But we haven't heard anything recently.

"There are talks taking place on a pretty regular basis. But lots of times, the different discussions don't end up becoming action items. It's an ongoing routine for us, and that's what allows us to maintain such a good relationship — robust, varied layers of communication between our two countries."

While stating Japan's preference to meet in February, the ministry official acknowledged that scheduling hurdles remain, according to the Kyodo News report.

Richard Lawless, the U.S. deputy undersecretary of Defense, was in Japan this week for bilateral discussions with Japanese officials on various defense topics, including a review of U.S. military position-

A central theme in the military realignment talks focuses on whether Japan will accept a U.S. proposal to relocate the U.S. Army's 1st Corps headquarters in Washington state to Camp Zama, Japanese government sources told Kyodo News.

Boyle said it's premature to speculate on what topics might be on the agenda for any ministerial talks.

There's also no timetable for major decisions on realignment or restructuring, Bell added. "The discussions will continue." he said. "We're

just one piece of the Department of Defense's global realignment puzzle. It remains to be seen how much impact that will have on U.S. forces in Japan."

Chivomi Sumida contributed to this report.

E-mail Vince Little at: littlev@pstripes.osd.mil

Japan's auto recycling law takes effect Jan. 1

BY VINCE LITTLE

Stars and Stripes

Japan's new automobile recycling law, which creates an additional one-time tax for vehicle owners ranging from 7,000 yen (about \$69 to \$178), goes into effect Jan. 1, Japanese officials said.

U.S. Forces Japan officials said they were unsure how the fee would be applied to Status of Forces Agreement personnel.

The Vehicle Recycle Law was passed in July 2002 to combat costs from illegal dumping of automobile scraps such as metal, Freon and air bags.

Space within Japan's reclamation sites is dwindling, officials say. To stretch capacity, Japanese government policy now requires vehicle parts to be separated more efficiently to reduce waste and recycle as many parts as possible. The cost of junking vehicles increased because of the change.

"Now 80 percent of vehicle parts are recycled, and the GOJ is aiming to bring this percentage up to 95 in about 2015," Yoshiji Harasawa, electronic data processing specialist from the Camp Zama Provost Marshal's Office registration section, stated in an Army news report.

New-car buyers will pay up front, while other owners will be charged upon their Japan Compulsory Insurance renewal or when they scrap their vehicles, a Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry official said last week

Just as car titles change hands, Japanese officials said, a recycle ticket will be transferred from owner to owner. The fee goes to the Japan Automobile Recycling Promotion Center, a corporation chosen by the Japanese government to administer funds, recycling and similar information.

The recycling fees for minicars and compact vehicles — with engine capacities up to 2,000 cc — will range from 7,000 yen to 16,000 yen (\$69-\$158). Fees for cars with engines bigger than 2,000 cc will be between 10,000 yen and 18,000 yen (\$99-\$178).

Tax amounts will vary depending on what's installed in the vehicle, with items such as air conditioners and air bags being factors, officials said.

E-mail Vince Little at: littlev@pstripes.osd.mi

Taking a ride on the 'Polar Express'



COURTESY OF M. GRAFF/Byrd Elementary School

Diane Mobler, of Byrd Elementary School at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, issues tickets to children to ride the "Polar Express" on Dec. 17, their last day before the holiday break. The kindergartners and first-graders watched the movie "The Polar Express" as a group, and school officials set up a replica of the train on the school's stage.

Air Force squadron to hold exercise on Guam

The Air Force's 613th Security Forces Squadron will hold a training session Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon at the old Federal Aviation Administration building in Dededo, Guam, according to a Commander, Naval Forces Marianas news release.

The drill's participants will be firing blank ammunition and officials say the public shouldn't be alarmed if they hear gunfire or witness servicemembers carrying weapons and wearing military gear.

Japan's air passenger tracking system to debut

A system to prevent illegal entry and entry by fugitive suspects and terrorists into Japan will start Jan. 4, Japanese officials announced Tuesday.

nounced Tuesday.

The system, under which airlines provide passenger and crew information to Japanese authorities before a plane lands in Japan, will be implemented jointly by the National Police Agency, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Finance.

The Advance Passenger Information System, or APIS, will automatically check passenger lists against a database kept by the National Police Agency, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Finance, the press release stated.

Authorities hope to prevent entry by terrorists and illegal aliens, prevent smuggling, aid searches for fugitives and crack down on international organized crime, officials said. The system will be applied to both Japanese and non-Japanese.

From staff reports

Youth soccer club spreads holiday cheer



Duezee by Fore Zumenman Charles

An Okinawan child seems less than thrilled about sitting on Santa's lap Thursday during a Christmas lunch for the mentally handicapped at the Ginowan City Welfare Center. Tamilies from the Okinawa Diplomats, a soccer team of SOFA-status children, attended the party to help the Okinawan children celebrate the holidays.

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BY FRED ZIMMERMAN AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA Stars and Stripes

GINOWAN CITY, Okinawa — The Okinawa Diplomats Youth Football Club members showed their Christmas spirit this season by spending some of their free time Thursday helping mentally handicapped children celebrate Christmas

Approximately 50 Diplomats players and family members attended a Christmas lunch for the children at the Ginowan City Welfare Center.

Eisa dancers and drummers kicked off the celebration, followed by lunch, which Diplomats players helped serve. After the meal, several more Okinawan children and adults performed dances, then the Diplomats and their family members sang Christmas carols.

But the most popular attraction during the two-hour gathering was, of course, Santa Claus, who was the last to walk onto the stage.

See more local stories on Pages 12-13

Two Santas actually were on hand; both walked throughout the crowd handing out candy and other treats to all children present.

One St. Nick then sat down for photos with anyone who wished.

This was the second year the soccer organization, for children with status of forces agreement status, gave a helping hand to the Association of Parents with Mentally Handicapped Children in Ginowan. Bobbie Lueking, who organized the event last year for the Diplomats, said the Okinawan group enjoyed it so much, the club was invited back.

The invitation was short notice—just a week before the party—so Lueking said she was extremely pleased so many Diplomats players and their families turned out.

"We really enjoy this," she said. "For the team, to be able to visit with someone who is less fortunate is very good ... they walk away with big hearts. They talk about this for days afterwards."

Ichiko Shimabukuro, head of the Association of Parents with Mentally Handicapped Children in Ginowan, said the soccer organization's presence "adds more fun and makes the party more funed and poyful." "Since we all had a great time last year, we asked them to join us again. We are very grateful to them for sharing some time with us in this holi-

day season."

Because the mentally handicapped children "do not have much opportunity to interact with people in the local community," Shimabukuro said, "such an opportunity as this is very precious."

E-mail Fred Zimmerman at: zimmermanf@pstripes.osd.mil E-mail Chiyomi Sumida at: sumidac@pstripes.osd.mil



Diplomats soccer player Sydnie Bligh, center, helps serve lunch Thursday. Nearly 50 people from the group — players and family members — attended the luncheon to help spread Christmas cheer.

Ex-AF lawyer gets more punishment

Fiscus ordered to forfeit some pay, may lose retirement benefits

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Air Force's recently dismissed top military lawyer was reprimanded further Wednesday and ordered to forfeit some of his pay for carrying on inappropriate relationships and committing other violations of the military code.

Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Fiscus was cited for conduct unbecoming an officer, fratemization, obstruction of justice and violating a lawful general regulation, the Air Force said in a statement. He was punished outside of the courtmartial process.

"The swift and strong actions of Air Force leadership make it clear that such misconduct will not be tolerated, regardless of the rank of the offender," the statement said

An Air Force official who would speak only on the condition of anonymity said an investigation determined Fiscus conducted a series of relationships, some of which were sexual, with women over several years. Some involved subordinates, leading to the fraternization charge, the offi-

Fiscus plans to retire. Gen. Donald G. Cook, the commander of the Air Education and Training Command who was given responsibility for the Fiscus case, recommended Fiscus retire below his current rank, meaning he could lose some retirement benefits. His status as an attorney may also face review.

Fiscus, an Air Force Academy graduate, had been the service's judge advocate general since February 2002. He had about 1,600 lawyers under his command.

He was relieved, at his request, on Sept. 22, when the investigation into his conduct began.

Blood drives set on Okinawa

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Armed Services Blood Bank Center has scheduled three blood drives on Okinawa next week.

The first drive is set for from 8 a.m. to noon Tuesday at the movie theater on Camp Courtney. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma will host the second and third drives from 8 a.m. to noon Wednesday and Thursday at the Futenma chapel.

Contact C. Tracy Parmer, blood donor recruiter, at 643-7710 or parmerct@oki10.med.navy.mil for more information on these drives, or to schedule a blood drive.

From staff reports



An unidentified soldier is removed from an amb sonnel during a snowstorm at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany on Wednesday evening. The servicemember was wounded in an attack on a dining facility in Mosul, Iraq.

Wounded from attack expect a full recovery

BY BEN MURRAY Stars and Stripes

LANDSTUHL, Germany - Officials at the U.S. military's prima ry medical hub for troops wound ed in Iraq said Thursday that all soldiers and civilians sent to the hospital after Tuesday's deadly attack on a dining area near Mosul, Iraq, are expected to survive, and most to fully recover

By midday Thursday, Landstuhl Regional Medical Center had re-ceived 35 people hurt in the attack at least seven of them civilians and 17 of whom are still in critical condition, said the hospital's com-

mander, Col. Rhonda Cornum.

Cornum said she did not yet have an accurate count of how many civilians had come in on a flight that arrived Thursday morning, or which U.S. contractors they worked for in Iraq.

The hospital began receiving natients early Wednesday morning following an explosion that tore through a U.S. mess tent crowded with soldiers, civilian workers and Iraqi security forces. The blast killed 22 people, including 13 U.S soldiers. Seventy people were in-jured in the attack, which military officials say was caused by an improvised explosive device

Cornum said Landstuhl has aleady moved some of the wounded, including six critical cases, to Army medical centers in the United States, and expects the majority of the remaining patients to arrive at stateside hospitals by Monday.

The hospital is trying to get as many of the troops as possible to U.S. hospitals by Christmas Day, Cornum said. Military officials even added an extra flight out of Germany on Saturday to get the wounded closer to their families for the holiday.

The bombing, which created the largest rush of patients to the hospital from any single attack since the start of the war, produced a multi-tude of injuries rarely seen by Landstuhl doctors, Cornum said.

Many troops had neck, chest and abdomen wounds, which are normally protected against in IED attacks by body armor. Wounds suffered by those hurt in the explosion made it clear that they were caught unprepared for an attack when they sat down to eat lunch Tuesday, she said.

It was obvious that these peo ple were not wearing their battle armor," said Cornum, who had per-formed a surgery herself Thursday morning

U.S. "battle rattle" generally deflects serious wounds to the torso and results in injuries to the arms and legs, she said, though there were "a couple of amputations

among the wounded at Landstuhl. None of the injuries seen at the hospital, however, provided any insight into the type of device used in the attack, which Pentagon officials said Wednesday they suspected was a suicide bombing.

Most patients arriving at the facility had already undergone surgery at medical centers in Iraq or Kuwait before being stabilized for the flight to Germany, and evidence of their original wounds has generally been "obliterated by the time they are here," Cornum said

"It's hard to say what the injury looked like when they started," she

The rush of patients and the high percentage of critical cases flown to the hospital just days be fore Christmas put a strain on Landstuhl medical workers, though they met the challenge with poise, Cornum said.

Hospital staff, who have treated more than 21.500 troops for all types of injuries since U.S. military operations began in Afghani-stan in 2002, worked extra hours to care for the wounded. Medical teams around the region were kept on two-hour alert in case more

were needed. As of Thursday afternoon, no further patients with battle injuries from the Mosul attack were expected to arrive at Landstuhl, Cornum

E-mail Ben Murray at: murrayb@mail.estripes.osd.mil

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Mosul bomber may have worn Iraq army uniform

BY MATT KELLEY The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The U.S. commander in northern Iraq. Brig. Gen. Carter Ham, said Thursday that the suicide bomber who killed 13 U.S. servicemembers in Mosul on Tuesday likely was wearing an Iraqi military uni-

Tuesday's explosion killed 22 people, injured scores more and put Pentagon officials on the defensive against new criticism of holes in the protections for troops in Iraq.

Speaking to CNN on Thursday. Ham said the investigation into the bombing was continuing "We don't know exactly how it

happened. ... In [the investigators'] very best judgment, the explosion was caused by a device that was inside the facility. The question now turns to, 'How did that happen?

"What we think is likely ... is that an individual in an Iraqi military uniform, possibly with a vest-worn explosive device, was inside the facility, and detonated

the facility, causing this tragedy." Ham was questioned as to what steps he was taking to recheck people entering the base.

"I think we have a good proce-

Ham said he was concerrned that the bombing could be used as a recruiting tool and the chance that other individuals would attempt "copycat attacks.

The attack inside a U.S. Army mess hall represents a breach of the most basic principles of military security and points to significant weaknesses in the screening of Iragis who are allowed onto the base, experts say.

"This is an incredible occurrence, that someone could have come in undetected with some kind of bomb," said Mitch Mitchell, a retired Army officer who helps design security training for the military. "It blows my mind that force protection on the base is that poor."

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld defended U.S. troop security in Iraq, saying it was "an enormous challenge to provide force protection.'

"They have to be right 100 per cent of the time," he said at a Wednesday press conference. "An attacker only has to be right occasionally.'

Mitchell and other experts said it was obvious the military was not taking basic protective ac tions for U.S. troops in Iraq. On Strategic Studies at the military's National Defense University. The explosion was the deadli-

est single attack on U.S. forces since the March 2003 invasion of

A radical Sunni Muslim group. the Ansar al-Sunnah Army, has claimed responsibility for the attack

Infiltration of insurgents onto U.S. military bases has been a concern for some troops in Iraq, particularly because of the fighters' ability to penetrate the Iraqi security forces.

For example, the former police chief in Mosul was arrested by Kurdish forces last month after a wave of insurgent violence in the city Kurdish officials said the former chief had turned over some police stations to insur-gents. At the time of the November violence, U.S. military spokes-men said they believed some Mosul police officers were working with the insurgents.

Besides Iraqi soldiers and other security officers, Iraqis enter U.S. bases as workers for the civilian contractors which handle functions such as food service, laundry and trash collection.

Weeding out insurgents from those workers should be a prioriıael itu-

he an

most bases, troops have their meals in large dining hall tents like the one attacked Tuesday, for example, instead of in small, scat- tered groups. That presents a tempting target for insurgents, Mitchell said. "It shows you the level at which force protection was addressed force protection was addressed, high," said Mitchell, an analyst with the Institute for National	y, said military analyst Mich O'Hanlon of the Brookings Inst tion think tank. "We have to work with Ira and employing them has to part of any reconstruction p So we will be vulnerable, but don't want to have dozens of p ple vulnerable at the same tin the said. Stripps editor Pat Dickson contribute to this report from Washington.
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	meals in large dining hall tents like the one attacked Tuesday, for example, instead of in small, scat-tered groups. That presents a tempting target for insurgents, Mitchell said. "It shows you the level at which force protection was addressed on that base, and it wasn't very high," said Mitchell, an analyst with the Institute for National ER APPRECIATION Carrier before nediate savings. phone(W) Phone(W) VS (Check one) \$45.75 (Save \$3.00) \$85.50 (Save \$12.00) \$156.00 (Save \$39.00) sisiness person. Please reward good sepply. nly. Newspager

Rumsfeld 'truly saddened' by criticism

Defense secretary offers passionate defense of himself against critics' recent thoughts

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, stung by criticism that he's insensitive to the needs of the troops



and their families, of fered his most impassioned defense Wednesday. saving he is "truly sad-dened" that anyone could doubt his commitment to the wel-

fare of U.S. troops. The normally stoic Rumsfeld said when he meets wounded soldiers or relatives of those killed in battle.

"their grief is something I feel to my core." "I am truly saddened by the thought that anyone could have the impression that I, or others here, are doing anything other than working urgently to see that the lives of the fighting men and women are protected and with Rumsfeld. are cared for in every way humanly possible " he said

"And I hope and pray that every family member of those who have died so bravely knows how deeply I feel their loss.

Rumsfeld has been a lightning rod since the war began in March 2003, but criticism recently intensified after a Tennessee National Guardsman in Kuwait asked him during a question-and-answer session with soldiers on Dec. 8 why he and his com-

rades had to scrounge for armor to protect their vehicles Rumsfeld gave an extended answer that included the statement, "You go to war

with the Army you have, not the Army you might want or wish to have. Critics called the response insensitive and castigated him for not doing more to prepare the U.S. military for the Iraqi inva-

sion and its aftermath. The following week, some Republicans joined Democrats in voicing dissatisfaction

Sen. John McCain, an Arizona Republican, said he had "no confidence" in Rumsfeld, citing the defense secretary's handling of the war and the failure to send more troops. Sen. Trent Lott, a Missouri Republican, said he believes Rumsfeld should be gone within a year. Neither directly called for his resignation.

The defense secretary was criticized again last weekend when it was reported that he did not personally sign letters of condolence to the families of dead soldiers, but instead relied on a mechanical device to affix his signature. He immediately abandoned the practice.

"My goodness, that's the least that we could expect of the secretary of defense, is having some personal attention paid by him." Sen. Chuck Hagel, a Nebraska Republican, said Sunday.

The next day, President Bush defended Rumsfeld, who has agreed to stay on for Bush's second term, saying his defense sec-

A CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll released Monday found 52 percent of respondents believe Rumsfeld should resign, and 41 percent approve of his job performance. People were evenly split on Rumsfeld's performance in May, but most approved of his handling of the iob about a year ago.

On Wednesday, Rumsfeld said, "I, and I know others, stay awake at night for con cern for those at risk, with hope for their lives, for their success. And I want those who matter most the men and women in uniform and their families, to know that. And I want them to know that we consider them, the soldiers, the sailors, the airmen, the Marines, to be America's true treasure. And I thank them and I thank their fami-

Asked whether the criticism had undermined his ability to do his job, he said, You get up in the morning and you think about what our troops are doing. And I must say, if they can do what they're doing, I can do what I'm doing."

Effort to help unit not accepted

MORGAN HILL, Calif. - An unusual flap has erupted between an Army Reserve unit and an Iraq-bound reservist who hopes to raise money for military equipment he wants to bring to the war zone

Sean Flynn, 18, planned to buy extra equipment for himself and two friends by selling his San Francisco 49ers memorabilia, including a commemorative football and a jersey autographed by Jerry Rice.

Those plans ballooned into a full-blown fund-raising effort organized by a local sports store to better equip Flynn's whole unit - an effort that has angered military brass

When news of the plan reached the unit - the

Mountain View-based 445th Civil Affairs Battalion officials insisted its soldiers had all the computer equipment and armor they need.

'You can't put on a uniform and solicit money the Army is not a fund-raising business," said Maj. Barbara Kuhn, spokeswoman for the battalion "And there was concern that the money raised was going to be used for their personal benefit."

Flynn's plan got noticed when he took his 49ers gear to Fan Club Sports, a memorabilia shop in San

Upon hearing of the motive, the store's owners and many customers decided to organize an online auction and fund-raiser to benefit Flynn's unit.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

As of Wednesday, at least 1,321 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,021 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said

The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is 20 higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Wednesday. The military has not yet included fatalities from Tuesday's attack on a dining hall near Mosul, Iraq

The British military has reported 75 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16: Spain, 11: Ukraine, nine: Bulgaria, seven: Slovakia, three: Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,183 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 912 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A Marine died in a vehicle accident Tuesday in Iraq's Anbar province.

The latest identifications reported by military officials and Maine Gov. John Baldacci:

■ Army Spc. Thomas John Dostie, 20, Somerville, Maine, and Army Sgt. Lynn Robert Poulin Sr., 47, Freedom, Maine; killed Tuesday in an attack on a mess hall near Mosul, Iraq; assigned to Headquarters Company, 133rd Engineer Battalion, Maine Army

■ Army Sgt. 1st Class Paul D. Karpowich, 30, Bridgeport, Pa.; killed Tuesday in an attack on a mess hall near Mosul, Iraq; as-signed to the 1st Battalion, 417th Regiment, 1st Brigade, 98th Division, Pennsauken, N.J.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Neil D. Petsche, 21, Lena, Ill.; died Tuesday after a non-hostile vehicle incident in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Army Staff Sgt. Donald B. Farmer, 33, Zion, Ill., and Army Sgt. Berry K. Meza, 23, League City, Texas; died Sunday in Shuaybah, Kuwait, when a vehicle struck them; assigned to the 180th Transportation Battalion, 13th Corps Support Command, Fort Hood,

France mobilized to free two hostages in Iraq

PARIS - France's spy agency mobilized 100 agents to win the release of two French hostages held in Iraq and cooperated closely with allies like the United States, the defense ministry said Thursday.

The round-the-clock effort to free the French reporters was "priority No. 1" for spy agency DGSE from the day that Islamic radicals captured them in August, ministry spokesman Jean-Francois Bureau said. Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot returned to France on Wednesday, welcomed by President Jacques Chirac, other top offi-cials and family members at a military airport outside Paris.

DGSE officials debriefed the two men before they returned home. From The Associated Press

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Promotion tracks split for Reserve and Guard

BY LISA BURGESS Stars and Stripes

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ARLINGTON, Va. — Reserve and National Guard officers soon will have separate promotion tracks instead of competing against one another.

Beginning in January, the Army will have three separate promotion categories for reserve component officers: a list for National Guard officers, a list for Army Reserve officers and a third list for Army Reserve officers assigned to active duty, said Lt. Col. Wanda Walker, a personnel policy integrator for reserve component promotions.

The old Army Promotion List grouped together all Guard and Reserve officers except for chaplains and Army Medical Department officers, who have their own promotion systems, according to Army personnel officials.

But that system led to a disproportionate promotion selection rate for the Army's 3,500 Reserve officers who are assigned to active duty status: about 90 percent, compared with their regular Reserve and National Guard brethren, who have been promoted in the 70 percent to 80 percent range, Walk er said Wednesday.

The number of Reserve officers who can be assigned to active duty is capped by Congress.

Although some Army personnel officials said the

old system worked well because "the best-quality officers were getting promoted ... basically, the system wasn't fair," Walker said.

That's because Reserve and Guard officers who may work only a few weeks each year were being compared to officers who do their jobs full-time, she said.

The new system, however, "will level the playing field," because officers "will be looked at against the same kinds of officers," Walker said.

Once the changes to the promotion system for the larger groups of reserve component officers is up and running, personnel officials plan to institute a similar system for reserve component chaplains and Medical Department officers.

The plan is to start that new promotion system starting in fiscal 2006, or next October.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil

MILITARY UPDATE Tom Philipott

Army Guard seeking to boost recruitment

o reverse a sharp drop in recruiting since citizen soldiers became 40 percent of U.S. ground forces in Iraq, the Army National Guard and Army Reserve this month announced increases in enlistment and re-enlistment bonuses.

But in an interview for this colium, Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said the Army "probably is two years away" from moving to shorter tours for members deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Yearlong combat tours, he concoded, aggravate the recruiting

"I would like to get to a rotation where we do nine months active duty tour time with six months boots-on-the-ground," said Blum. That would cut current rotations by half.

"But we are not ready to go

there yet," Blum said
The chief of Army Reserve, Lt.
Gen. James R. Helmly, told The
Dallas Morning News in mid-December that Reserve recruiting is
in a "precipitous decline" that, if
not stemmed, could reopen debate over a military draft.
Blum. in our interview, said

Blum, in our interview, said Guard recruiting too has dropped sharply, particularly from among the pool of members leaving active duty. Before fiscal 2004, the Army Guard got 50 percent of recruits from the prior-service pool.

"It was an automatic. It was a given," said Blum. That has plummeted to 35 per-

cent, he said, leaving the Guard short more than 8,000 members through September. The gap has widened since then to 12,600. Army Guard recruiters in October and November, the first two months of fiscal 2005, signed only 70 percent of their monthly goals.

MILITEL

Blum said it reflects a dramatic change in the nature of Guard service since Sept. 11, 2001, from a strategic reserve force that drilled on weekends to an operational force critical to a nation at war. One quarter of Guard personnal have been deployed, continually,

for the past three years, he said.

Blum, in pressing for shorter combat tours, points out that a yearlong stint in Iraq or Afghanistan means far more than a year away from family and civilian jobs

for reserve component members.

"The active guy goes back to his job — at Fort Campbell, Fort Lewis, wherever — and gets assimilated right back into his life. The National Guard [member] has already spent three or four months in a MOB [mobilization] station before a year bosts-on-the-ground. So it's not really a year. It's 16 months. Then, it's another two nonths from the time of the state of

"We're not complaining about it," he said "but I want truth in lending."

For now, Blum said, he's optimistic that more recruiters and bigger bonuses will attract enough volunteers to return the Guard to full strength. "We're sustaining wartime ca-

sualties and sending people in harm's way. So it requires us to recruit with a different message. We're not bringing people in for college [benefits] or vocational training. We're bringing them in for service to their nation," Blum said. "And their state."

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Teleconference provides families, deployed troops virtual face time

BY STEPHEN SINGER The Associated Press

CHICOPEE, Mass — Air Force reservists from Connecticut and Massachusetts got an early Christmas gift Wednesday, taking a break from wartime duties in southwest Asia to reconnect with their families in a video teleconference. The families of six reservists

gathered in a conference room at Westover Air Reserve Base, where a television showed their loved ones in an undisclosed location. Another television brought the images of the loved ones to the reservists. Master Sgt. Gerard Leamy of

Manchester, Conn., told his wife he was not crying as he brushed aside something on his cheek. He claimed it was dust. Leamy, a mail carrier who has

been overseas since September, said the Christmas season has not yet reached the war zone. "Out here, it's just another

day," he said. "On Christmas, we'll realize it." His wife, Joyce, said she has "a

lot to deal with as a single parent at home."
"We're not used to doing this

kind of stuff as regular people," Joyce Leamy said. Intimacy was nonexistent for

the families as news reporters crowded into the conference room at the start of one teleconference.

"Oh my gosh," Joyce Leamy

said upon seeing her husband's image on TV. "It's amazing. Say something," she commanded her husband.

"Merry Christmas," he replied. For the airmen, whose location

For the airmen, whose location



Jacob Leamy, 8, and mom Joyce Leamy make faces together at Jacob's father, Air Force Reserve Master Sgt. Gerard Leamy, during a live teleconference connection to Southwest Asia from Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee, Mass., on Wednesday.

was not disclosed by the Air Force for security purposes, it was a chance to communicate with their wives and children in a more familiar format than e-mails.

Tracy Savoie of Springfield said she and her husband, Tech. Sgt. Craig Savoie, e-mail each other nearly every day.

"I'm lucky enough," she said.
"His job is working on a computer. It's pretty nice."

The mission of the servicemembers, who are assigned to the 58th Aerial Port Squadron from the 439th Airifi Wing, is to conduct air transportation processing and handle cargo and passengers supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. They are expected to return home next month, the Air Force said.

The servicemen said nothing about their work or the circum-

stances they face.

But the affernoon meeting, which took place at 10 p.m. for the servicemen half a world away, drew details from family members about videotaped movies they rented, makeup used by

a young daughter and haircuts.
Joyce Leamy updated her husband on the region's recent snowstorm and bitter cold, which is vastly different from the "beauti-

ful shirt-sleeve weather" described by her husband. Gerard Leamy also said he misses hunting.

"I was looking for a nice 20gauge over-and-under," he said. "They took my hunting season away from me."



Japan

S.Korea

Study: Removal of Navy officers on rise

Lead investigator finds commanding officers punished for personal misconduct cases

BY LEO SHANE III Stars and Strings

WASHINGTON - The number of Navy officers removed from command has risen dramatically, but a series of personal failings was to blame, rather than a problem with the promotions system, investigators said Wednesday.

The Navy's lead investigator noted that personal misconduct cases - things such as sexual improprieties and alcohol abuse have accounted for the sharp rise.

From 1999 to 2002, only eight commanding officers were "detached for cause" due to personal behavior. Over the following 18 months, until June 2004, 19 officers were punished for those fail-

Overall, 38 commanding officers, about 1.5 percent of the Navy's non-flag commanders, were detached from January 2003 to June 2004. Only 37 had been removed from command in the previous four years.

The Navy study, Wednesday, dismisses major operations in Iraq and Afghanistan as factors in the increase, noting the service always holds its senior

members "to the highest of personal and professional standards.'

Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John B. Nathman echoed those statements, saying he was pleased the investigation found no systemic problems in the chain of command

"A commanding officer's duties are to complete a mission successfully and to provide the conditions of success," he said, "The behavior of a commanding officer must be proper. It implies you have to lead by example

Nathman said many of the personal behavior failings have oc-curred just before or immediately following deployment, which he thinks might show officers "letting their guard down" before and after missions.

Navy investigators noted that since June only two officers have been removed from command, which they see as a sign the 18-month increase was just an anomaly.

But the report does recommend instituting a refresher course on behavior and responsibilities for all commanding officers, developing a self-assessment tool for commanders to monitor their actions and creating a peer evaluation tool to provide another performance

perspective to the commanders. addition to unprofessional conduct, officers can have their command stripped for failing to complete a mission, demonstrating poor leadership skills, or having a catastrophic event, such as a ship or plane crash, happen on

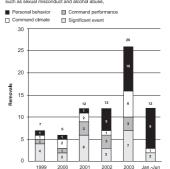
their watch. Of the personal misconduct cases reviewed by investigators, eight in the last four years were related to alcohol abuse, including several drunken driving arrests In the last two years, 13 involved sexual misconduct, including five related to sexual harassment or assault, and two related to computer pornography

The lead investigator said he found no connection between the detachments and where the commanding officers served, their command history or their level of

Nathman said several of the renort recommendations have already been put in place, and he expects to see the rest enacted in the near future

A growing problem

The Navy has completed a five-year study of cases where an officer has been 'detached for cause.' Released Wednesday, the study shows a sharp increase in officers relieved of command, many for personal behavior issues, such as sexual misconduct and alcohol abuse.



Source: U.S. Navv. Naval Inspector General

GIs with combat experience offered new recruiting deal

BY LISA BURGESS Stars and Strines

ARLINGTON, Va. - The Army is offering soldiers with combat experience two weeks temporary duty in the recruiting station clos est to their own hometown to help recruit new members

And to sweeten the pot, once their recruiting obligations are completed, soldiers can take per-sonal leave, "as long as their com-mander approves" the extra time off, said Julia Bobick, a spokeswoman for the Army's recruiting command at Fort Knox, Ky.

But soldiers can't take advan tage of the deal while they are still deployed, because of the costs of bringing people back to the United States from places such as Iraq, Bobick said in a Tuesday tele phone interview

Neither can soldiers who are stationed overseas use the new program as a way to get a free trip home, Bobick said

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tioned in the United States, is 25 years old or younger, and has served overseas in support of Op-erations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom, he or she can apply for the Special Recruiter Assistance Program, or SRAP, ar-

rangement, Bobick said. In fiscal 2004, which ended in September, the Army National Guard missed its recruiting target of 56,000 new soldiers by nearly 7,000 enlistees, or more than 12 percent. The active Army recruited 77,587 soldiers, or 100.8 percent of its goal, according to the Army's Recruiting Command.

For the Army Reserve, the com-mand recruited 21,278 soldiers, or 100.4 percent of its goal.

The goal for fiscal 2005 is to bring in 80,000 new soldiers for the Active Army and 22,175 soldiers for the Army Reserve. As of Nov. 29, the last date for

which numbers were available, re cruiters had signed up 13,767 new soldiers for active duty and 2,292 new soldiers for the Reserve.

After an orientation by the battalion public affairs officer, soldiers in the program may be called on to speak at college and community events, or participate in interviews with local media, Bobick said.

Soldiers can claim reimbursement for travel expenses and will receive per diem for their temporary duty assignment time.

To apply for SRAP, go to the

U.S. Army Recruiting Command's Web site at www.usarec.army. mil, or call (502) 626-0448/1582.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil





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Fake-degrees problem

HANOI. Vietnam - More than 1,700 policemen in Vietnam have been caught using fake degrees and certificates to get promotions and raises, state-con media reported Thursday. state-controlled

A total of 1,076 got demoted and another 97 were dismissed from the police force for falsifying their education and training. the Pioneer newspaper said.

Some in the police force did not get an official education and they had to go to part-time classes and other training in order to get salary raises, he said.

Major heroin bust

HONG KONG — A Sierra Leone man who swallowed 74 pel-lets of heroin was arrested at Hong Kong's airport for alleged drug smuggling, the government

said Thursday. Customs officers arrested the 33-year-old man on Wednesday, when he arrived from Pakistan, the government said in a state ment. He had planned to travel to the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou.

The suspect will be charged with trafficking in a dangerous drug, the government said.

N. Koreans' fate sought

HANOI, Vietnam - Vietnam said Thursday it is working to resolve the fate of six people believed to be North Koreans who recently sought refuge at the French and Swedish embassies in Hanoi

Last Friday afternoon, four people claiming to be North Koreans entered the French Embassy while another two entered the Swedish Embassy on Monday night

Diplomats from both those countries have declined to specify whether the six are asking for political asylum. The North Korean embassy in Hanoi has said it has no information on the matter.

More than 5,000 North Kore ans have defected to South Korea since the 1950-53 Korean War. Last year, the number of defectors arriving in the South reached 1,285, up from 1,140 in 2002 and 583 in 2001

S. Korea OKs research

SEOUL, South Korea - South Korea will allow stem-cell research to find cures for 18 diseas es such as diabetes, Alzheimer's and cerebral palsy government officials said Thursday.

South Korea's parliament passed a law in January banning human cloning, but left it to the government to establish detailed rules on stem-cell research.

Those guidelines were passed by the Cabinet on Thursday and will take effect on Jan 1 said an official at the Ministry of Health and Welfare, who spoke on condi-

tion of anonymity.

Under the guidelines, scientists will also be allowed to use fertilized eggs that are left over at fertility clinics

In February, a team of South Korean researchers became the first in the world to successfully clone a human embryo, and then collect from its master stem cells. From The Associated Press

Thailand reportedly terror target

Recently discovered documents indicate attacks planned on resorts

BY SUTIN WANNABOVORN The Associated Press

BANGKOK, Thailand - Terrorists are plotting attacks next year at tourist resorts across

Thailand, according to documents found in the house of a fugitive leader of the country's Islamic insurgency, a senior security official The rebels also plan to turn three Muslim-dominated provinces in Thailand's south

into a base for international terrorist groups, the official told The Associated Press in an interview on Thursday. The plans indicate the insurgents want to broaden a conflict in the south that has killed more than 570 people this year, and fuel concerns that their cause is gaining support

among Islamic extremists outside the coun-Gen. Kitti Rattanachaya, a senior security adviser to Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, said the seized documents indicate the separatists want to escalate their fight against the Buddhist central government next year

The situation will be terrifying as the terrorists open war on all fronts to divert attention from the southern area," Kitti, a former army commander in the south, told the AP He said the documents show that in 2005

the militants plan to attack "soft targets" such as the tropical beach resorts of Pattava and Phuket, which draw tourist from around the

The documents were seized earlier this year from the house of Masae Useng, a former Islamic school teacher who the govern-44 The situation will be

> terrifying as the terrorists open war on all fronts to divert attention from the

> > southern area. Gen. Kitti Rattanachava a senior security adviser to Thailand's prime minister

ment accuses of masterminding a separatist plan for Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat provinces, which border Malaysia.

Officials have said previously that the separatists have threatened to attack tourists sites, but have not said where the information came

Thaksin's government has struggled to quell violence in the south that has swelled since Muslim militants early this year rekindled a decades-old dream of an Islamic state separated from Buddhist-dominated Thai-

Most of the deaths have been police and local government officials killed in drive-by shootings and small bomb blasts, while scores of militants have died in crackdowns by secu-rity forces who are accused of brutality.

Kitti said last year's arrest in Thailand of al-Qaida-linked terrorist suspect Riduan Isamuddin, better known as Hambali, proved that international extremists had operated in Thailand for some time Hambali, a leader of the Southeast Asian

terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah, visited southern areas three times before his arrest in the central city of Ayutthaya, Kitti said. Jemaah Islamiyah had cells in several Southeast Asian countries and allegedly had training camps in Philippines and Indonesia before a regional crackdown after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States

crippled its operations. Kitti said more than 3,000 Thai Muslim mili tants had received military training over the past seven years and thousands of stolen or illegally purchased weapons have been stock-

3 Chinese jailed for selling fake milk

The Associated Press

BEIJING - Three Chinese grocery wholesalers have been sentenced to prison for selling fake milk formula that left a newborn baby boy severely malnourished, a newspaper reported Thursday.

The boy was one of more than 200 infants who suffered malnutrition after drinking phony formula in the eastern province of Anhui. An investigation later found widespread milk powder counterfeiting in the province. At least 12 habies died.

Wholesalers Ma Dacheng, Lu Jie and Gao Jian were sentenced to jail terms of six months to three years and fined by the Taihe County Court, the Beijing Youth Daily reported. The three were tried only for selling the fake milk to farmer Gao Zheng's baby son.

The wholesalers were in the middle of a long distribution

It was not clear from the report whether they knew that the powder they were selling would make children sick

The 12 infant deaths were an embarrassment to the government of Chinese President Hu Jintao, who has called for officials to focus on protecting public health and safety

Karzai picks new, old faces for Cabinet

BY PAUL HAVEN The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan - President Hamid Karzai chose a new Cabinet on Thursday, heeding calls to sideline warlords from top positions - including the defense minister — and creating a new post to oversee the fight against opium production.

Defense Minister Mohammed Fahim, a prominent Tajik warlord and the head of the northern alliance that helped the United States drive the Taliban from power in 2001, was replaced by his deputy, Abdul Rahim Ward ak, according to a decree announced by Karzai on Afghan state television

The new Cabinet was announced on state-run television, but several government officials leaked the list of Cabinet members to The Associated Press hours before the official an-

Wardak is a Pashtun who made a name for himself as a commander in the 1980s fighting Soviet occupation, then fled abroad as the

country descended into civil war. Southern warlord Gul Agha Sherzai also

was removed from the Cabinet, where he public was works minis-

Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani. former

Karzai World Bank

official credited with securing large commitments of foreign was replaced by Central Bank Governor Anwar ul-Hag Ahadi, a longtime Karzai ally. Ghani was likely to take over as chief of Kabul University, the officials said.

Foreign Minister Abdullah and Interior Minister Ali Ahmad Jalali, both popular in the West, were kept on

However, at least one regional strongman is joining the govern-

Ismail Khan, the powerful western warlord whom Karzai re-moved as governor of Herat earlier this year, was given the posi-tion of water and energy minis-

The post is not considered a top-tier position, but Khan's selection is likely to prompt criticism from human rights groups, who want Karzai to crack down on the influence of warlords and build a more professional political class.

In addition to the top spots, a new Counternarcotics Ministry was created, with relative unknown Habibullah Qadari chosen





Above: Children play in the snow Dec. 15 in Santa's village on the Arctic Circle in Royaniemi, Finland, which lavs claim tongue-in-cheek to his log cabin there. Finland was horrified when a British family went public with complaints that he gave them the brushoff. And then there's the larger question of whether Santa may lose his magic as his haunt becomes a tourist attraction drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors. Right: Santa talks with children in his village.



Santa's magic tested in his hometown

Famed tourist village in Finland realizes challenges of St. Nick business

By MATTI HUUHTANEN The Associated Press

SANTA'S VILLAGE ON THE ARCTIC CIRCLE — Santa Claus takes a long look at two English children sitting on his knees.

"Have you been good?" he asks

The question might well be thrown back in his bushy-bearded face, considering the fuss a British family caused this month by complaining that they spent a fortune to come to Santa's village on the Arctic Circle, only to be given the brushoff.

Hilary Hughes who brought two daughters and four grandchildren to visit Santa, claimed to the Guardian newspaper in London that they were told he was too busy to see them, then finally received them in a dining room cluttered with dirty plates.

Finns, highly sensitive about their nation's image, were horrified, and tabloid newspapers passionately bemoaned the damage to Santa's prestige. "This was most unfortunate, and we can only apologize profusely," lamented Jyrki Niva, manager of the firm that arranged the trip

He blamed a delayed flight add-"We had 1,600 guests that weekend, and there were no other complaints. Everything else went smoothly.

But the flap may be just a symptom of a deeper concern that the Christmas spirit is getting lost as the Santa industry gets bigger and more regimented

The Finns always have claimed a special relationship with Santa. and since the 1960s the idea that Santa's home is in Lapland has been strongly promoted by travel agents, the government and Finnair, the national carrier, which calls itself Santa's official airline

Tourism took off in 1985 when Santa's first workshop opened here, 520 miles north of Helsinki, the capital.

Since then millions have flown in to sit on Santa's knee, ride reindeer sleds and snowmobiles, and visit the husky farms that dot the snowy landscape. Some 600,000 are expected this year, with more than 250 chartered flights this month alone arriving in Rovaniemi, the capital of Finnish Lap land 5 miles south of Santa's vil-

That's 25 percent more than ast vear

To get all those multitudes off the plane, onto Santa's knee, around the attractions and out again calls for clockwork timing.

"There is a danger we will be swamped by the growing num-bers, so we have to be very careful when we plan," said Niva "Quality must come before quanti-

Santa's log cabin, originally built for a visit by Eleanor Roosevelt, widow of the U.S. president, is now dwarfed by Santa's Office and workshops, the Santa post office that receives more than 500,000 letters a year from all over the world, and dozens of souvenir stores

Then there's SantaPark, a deep cave where visitors can listen to the sounds of Lappish nature and throw frozen snowballs, and a bar where drinks are served from ice glasses at a room temperature of 14 degrees Fahrenheit.

At the newly opened Santa's Technology Park, companies work in tourism and communication technology, including answer ing Santa's letters and making DVDs about Santa and Lapland.

And of course, Rovaniemi boasts a Hotel Santa Claus. In fact, three quarters of the work force in the town of 35,000 direct.

ly or indirectly services the \$460 million annual tourism industry. Has the Santa business gotten

too hig? No one will say so on the record

for fear of hurting their own livelihood. But privately, some are worried. One waitress fears that "Santa saturation" - tourists are shunted in and out as though on conveyor belts - ultimately will cause a backlash.

In his quiet, cozy grotto, Santa won't be drawn into the debate.

His real identity is a secret and he won't answer questions about himself. His unchanging message is the well-being of children.

"It's nice that children can have lovely presents, but the most important thing is that they should be made to feel secure and happy," Santa said. "In this way, we can all have a better, safer world."

And for 8-year-old Guy Johnson from England, the magic is still very much there.

Santa is serious business in Finland

Some 600,000 visitors will visit Santa's Village in the northern



The Santa he met in London wasn't the real thing, he said knowingly after meeting Finland's Santa. "This is the real Santa. He lives here. He was fan-

Across the globe, 'pagan' pines caught in church-state disputes

BY WILLIAM J. KOLE

The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria - Pity the humble Christmas tree - a lovable shrub with heathen roots that's been dragged into the middle of bitter church-state senaration squabbles stretching from France to Florida

Historians say the Tannenbaum dates to the Druids of northern Europe, who lived several centuries before Christ and used pine boughs to mark the winter solstice. Even some evangelical Christians,

acknowledging its pagan past, jokingly refer to their trees as "Babylon bushes

But because of the central role the Christmas tree plays in modern celebrations, others insist it's a de-facto religious symbol that has no place in schools or other public buildings

Humbug, says David J. Robson, a U.S. horticulturist who has researched the tree's storied past and contends the only thing remotely religious about it is the star or angel that's perched on top.

"It's not a Christian symbol per se,"

Robson, who works with the University of Illinois' extension service in Springfield, said in an interview. "It hasn't done any thing wrong. It doesn't have the ability to do anything except bring some joy and keep the soil from eroding before it's cut

In France, the "sanin de Noel" has become the focal point of a lively debate over where it does and doesn't belong.

A dozen students at a high school east of Paris, convinced that a Christmas tree their principal put up in the entry hall violates a law banning conspicuous religious symbols in public schools, have pressured administrators to remove it.

In Florida, a furor over whether Christmas trees are unacceptable religious symbols ended last week when officials reversed a decision to restrict their display in public buildings.

U.S. courts have ruled that Christmas trees are secular symbols, although some have decreed that putting them up in public places gives other groups the right to place a holiday symbol in the same place.

CHRISTMAS IN THE PACIFIC

Last-minute Santas keep base exchanges bustling

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan -Staff Sgt. Rod Parker walked out of the base exchange Thursday afternoon with two shopping bags, toting clothes and a Nike winter coat for his sons.

But with Christmas Day fast approaching, he still had a television to buy for his children and something for his wife, though he had no idea what

"I'm always a last-minute kind of person," he said. "I'll be back this evening. I have to regroup.

With less than two shopping to spare, customers thronged to base stores across the Pacific on Thursday in pursuit of last-minute holiday gifts. In mainland Japan, Okinawa, and South Korea, shoppers bought up Xbox video games and SpongeBob watches and diamond rings, Christmas decorations and a steam cleaner, to name some items. They offered an array of excuses for waiting so long to finish off their lists: deployments, busy work schedules, habit, indecisive ness, laziness and the element of surprise

"Less time for my children to find them in the house," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. James Brown, while getting Christmas gifts wrapped at Osan Air Base, South

At Camp Foster, Okinawa, Tammy Williams shopped for hus band Gunnery Sgt. Ceylon Will-

"He's always with me, so I can never shop for him," she said. "A friend of mine just PCSed here, so he thinks we're out shopping for the children."

Some parents who thought they were done for the year headed to the stores Thursday with a big heart, deciding their kids really needed one more item or two under the tree or in their stock-

ing. "You know, after you put the



Petty Officer 1st Class Billy Reynolds said he realized at the last minute that he still had some shopping to do for one of his children, so he visited the Navy Exchange at Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, in search of video games, magazines and other gifts on Thursday afternoon.

stockings together, you think 'I can put one more thing in said Misawa civilian Kevin Radford, after buying video games. CDs and other stocking stuffers for his three boys.

Likewise, at Japan's Sasebo Base Navy Exchange, Petty Officer 1st Class Billy Reynolds was hoping to find some tips on good video games to buy for one of his children.

"Well, I thought I had done pretty good buying gifts, but then I started wrapping and putting presents under the tree for my three children when I noticed one of them was coming up a little short," Reynolds said.

He is excited to give one of his children a new handheld gaming



Army Sgt. Pierre Ngambo of the 58th Signal Battalion looks for iewelry as a last-minute Christmas gift for his wife Thursday morning at the Camp Foster Exchange on Okinawa. He said he always waits until the last minute to buy gifts so he can get the best deal possible.

system Nintendo DS that was recently released — they simply flew off the shelves in the NEX be fore he found time to buy one, he said.

"So I looked everywhere online and they were all sold out. They didn't make enough. I believe But I decided to try my luck on eBay.com and was able to find one," he said. "Now I'm looking for some of the better DS games.

Seaman Nelly Salazar, who bought most of her gifts before Thursday, planned last-minute shopping.

"In Sasebo there just isn't that much to do, and I have to work Christmas. I had already bought gifts for family and mailed those, but today I'm buying things for some friends. I waited partly be-cause it is something to do," she said. "It also has to do with procrastinating a little bit." she

Then there's the wallop on the wallet

"But if you go and buy things little by little, you don't really realize it as much as far as costs. Buying all at once, you feel like, 'Whoa,' " she said.

Store officials at Misawa ex-

pected sales to pick up the day before Christmas, said operations manager Brian Benson, noting the store was open 12 hours a day throughout much of December and was to open two hours early at 7 a.m. Friday. This time of year, the jewelry counter and electronics tend to be the busiest departments, he said.

'Men always look at electronics, computers and TVs and then they get pulled over to the jewelry counter for their wives - the seasoned husbands" that is.

Mostly men lined the store's jewelry counter Thursday afternoon, including Maj. Malcolm Johnson, who planned to buy his wife a 1-carat diamond ring for



Getting in some last-minute Christmas shopping for his three kids Thursday, civilian contractor Mike Millspaugh moves into the checkout line in the base exchange at Osan Air Rase, South Korea.

thing in

there '77

Kevin Radford

Base, Japan

Civilian, Misawa Air

"She always wanted a bigger one, so I think this is probably a good time to do it," he said.

Across the store in Power Zone, digital cameras were hot. "I've sold 10 digital cameras today, said

Power Zone associate John Welch. The Xbox game Halo 2 and portable DVD players were big sellers, he said. Some shoppers

shopped only on base or online and avoided downtown stores be-cause of the poor U.S. dollar to Japanese yen ex-change rate. Others said it was the only show in town. "Being overseas

said this year they

it's tough because the shopping is limited," said Osan Air Base civilian contractor Mike Millspaugh, because it's only on base that he can expect to

find the American products he Millspaugh, a single parent who works for the 7th Air Force. was at the base exchange with his shopping cart filled to overflowwith last-minute Christmas gifts for his three young children. "This is my day off, figured I'd

swing in here," he

While many pa-44 You know. trons left stores after you put Thursday claiming thev the stockings were done Christshopping, together, you Parker the Misa wa staff sergeant think 'I can made it as far as the food court nut one more with clothes for his kids before

turning around. "I thought about a leather coat for my wife," he said while browsing through the women's sec-

How long would be shon? "It depends on how frustrated I get," he said.

Franklin Fisher, Greg Tyler and Fred Zimmerman contributed to this story. E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at:

svanj@pstripes.osd.mi

CHRISTMAS IN THE PACIFIC



PHOTOS BY GREG TYLER/Stars and Stripes

Navy spouse Julie Baker helps serve a free homecooked Christmas dinner prepared by Navy and civilian spouses Thursday night under tents just outside Sasebo Naval Base's Spare Time Bowling Center during the Single Sailors Christmas Party.

Party brings holiday fun for single sailors

BY GREG TYLER Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan
— Single sailors and guests here
leaned back in their chairs satisfied Thursday night after a
belt-tightening home-cooked
meal served at the Single Sailors

Christmas Party.
Sponsored by the Sasebo Navy
League Council; Wardroom Association; Morale, Welfare and Recreation; United Service Organizations; Officers' Spouses Club and
other base groups, the party featured the meal, door prizes, free
bowling, video games and billiards at the Spare Time Bowling
Center.

After a couple of plates full of urkey, ham, dressing and giblet gray, Petry Officer 3rd Class Cornelius Frost from the USS Fort McHenry said word of the party spread through the ship about five days ago. The ship returned Wednesday from a humanitarian relief mission in the Phillippines.

"This food is so good. Everyone was very positive knowing this party would happen, although there are still some that just prefer to get off base when in port, or even head up to Fukuoka. Some just stay on the ship for whatever reason. This is a great alterna-

tive," Frost said, then headed back for desserts.

Shipmate Petty Officer 2nd Class Chad Leno planned to fly home to Oregon on Friday and spend two weeks with his family. He eased into the Christmas spirit by partaking in the food cooked and served by Navy and civilian

"This is really good," he said, looking down at a plate holding at least five dessert items. "This is way, way better than eating in the ship's galley. Way better."

Meanwhile, inside the Spare Time Bowling Center, more than 200 single sailors and guests packed the bowling lanes and video-game areas, while some were shooting pool and others mingled and socialized.

"Putting on this party, and serving the meal, seeing that they enjoy it like they do ... it kind of makes you feel like you're doing it for your own [family]," said Beth Martin, a Navy League Council member, elementary school teacher and wife of Capt. Bradley Martin.

Between dishing out servings of cornbread dressing, she added, "It's really very nice knowing how they are enjoying this."

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tylerg@pstripes.osd.mil

Jerry Havens, left, president of the Sasebo Naval Base Navy League Council, was busy Thursday orchestrating free bowling at Sasebo's Spare Time Bowling Center during the Single Sailors Christmas





Right: More than 1,200 participants ran in the Annual Jingle Bell Jog on Wednesday at Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station, Japan. Runners were encouraged to dress up in Christmas costumes to spread holiday spirit to base residents.

Above: The Marine Corps' Santa Claus — Master Sgt. Harrell L. Bellous Jr. — got into the jog's holiday spirit by tossing candy canes from atop his jolly Humvee.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LUKAS J. BLOM Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



... and a Santa in a Humvee



FRED ZIMMERMAN/Stars and Stripe

Members of the Kadena High School Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps spent nearly 90 minutes Wednesday caroling at the U.S. Anilospital Okinawa. Seventeen students — and one 2004 Kadena and the Corps of the

IN THE STATES

Ex-Conn. governor pleads guilty

BY MATT APUZZO AND JOHN CHRISTOFFERSON

The Associated Press

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Former Gov. John G. Rowland, driven from office by a corrup scandal, pleaded guilty Thursday to a single federal charge that carries a sentence of up to five years in prison.

After reaching a deal with prosecutors. Rowland pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to steal honest service, a felony that also carries a possible \$250,000 fine.

The plea deal ends the two-year-long investigation into corruntion in the administration of Rowland, who resigned July 1 after 91/2 years in office. Row land's lawyer, William F. Dow III, acknowledged the former gov-ernor was "the recipient of certain gratuities.

Prosecutors told the judge that Rowland accepted \$107,000 worth of vacations, work on his cottage and free flights from state contractors and others

Assistant U.S. Attorney Nora Dannahey said the single charge also involves a conspiracy to defraud the Internal Revenue Ser-

U.S. District Judge Peter Dorsey advised Rowland that as a convicted felon he would not be able to vote or hold public office.

"There was an effort being made to deprive Connecticut citi zens of the honest services of its officials," Dorsey said.

Federal guidelines call for a sentence of 15 to 21 months in prison, the lawyers involved said. entencing was set for March. In addition to the possible sentence and fine, prosecutors said he could be forced to pay more than \$35,000 to the IRS in unpaid taxes and interest

"Obviously mistakes have been made throughout the last few years, and I accept responsibility for those," Rowland told report ers after entering the plea. "But I also ask the people of this state to appreciate and understand what we have tried to do over the past 25 years in public service.

The written plea agreement does not require Rowland to testify against others.

Gov. M. Jodi Rell, who took office after Rowland stepped down, said she felt "deep personal disappointment.

"While we knew that this day might come, we were never real-ly prepared for the reality of it. Today the state of Connecticut was humiliated, and I, as John Rowland's former running mate and colleague, feel personally betrayed. When I first heard the news, I felt like I was punched in



Don Wilmoth uses a snow blower to clear over eight inches of snow in front of his home in Columbus. Ind., on Wednesday. Heavy snow fell Wednesday morning across southern and central Indiana in the first wave of a winter wallon that was expected to dump as much as a foot of snow in some places.

Winter weather disrupts holiday travel across U.S.

By KIMBERLY HEELING

The Associated Press EVANSVILLE, Ind. - Frigid temperatures, blast-

ing wind and more snow than some places normally see in a year left parts of the Midwest and South paralyzed Thursday, and transformed a section of high-way in southern Indiana into a parking lot.

The winter storm dumped double-digits of snow

from Ohio to Wyoming, the Texas Panhandle to the Great Lakes, disrupting pre-Christmas travel, Motorists in parts of Mississippi and Tennessee were warned Thursday to stay off highways iced up from freezing rain. Hundreds of thousands lost power in

We're still stuck here. It's been about 13 hours, Ken Sabatini, 52, of Leawood, Kan., said Thursday norning. He, his wife and two children were traveling to Cincinnati for Christmas. "It's cold outside and we're doing our best to stay inside the car."

Temperatures fell to 12 degrees overnight, and Sa-

batini said some motorists had run out of gas and were sleeping in a stranded Greyhound Bus to stay

The Indiana National Guard was bringing stranded motorists from I-64 to hotels in Evansville or the Red

Cross offices. Gov. Joe Kernan declared a disaster emergency for

portions of the state and urged a delay in Christmas travel to allow time for roads to be cleared.

The Wednesday snowfall at Evansville of 19.3 inch

es shattered the record for any single day, set Feb. 25, 1993, when 10.9 inches fell. It was also well over the normal yearly total of 14.2 inches.

Paducah, Ky., got 14 inches, more than the yearly norm of 10, and state police closed down a 13-mile stretch of the I-64 in both directions west of Louisville.

Ohio was a patchwork; up to 16 inches of snow in some places, but a combination of snow, sleet and rain in the northeastern part of the state. Electric compa-nies serving most of the state said 310,000 homes and

business were without power.

In Illinois, where up to 20 inches of snow fell, foreasters warned that wind chills would reach as low as 25 below zero.

Cincinnati was looking at about 20 inches before the system, with its high winds and freezing tempera-

tures, moved on. Parts of Arkansas looked forward to only the ninth white Christmas in 120 years as the storm barreled across the state.

As arctic air surged southward into the Mississippi Valley, a combination of freezing rain and sleet madriving treacherous across northern Mississippi. The Highway Patrol urged motorists to suspend their trav-el "at least until midmorning," said agency spokes-

man Warren Strain. At least seven weather-related traffic deaths were oorted - three in Ohio and one each in New Mexico, Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma.

Nine people received minor injuries in a series of ac-cidents on a snowy interstate in Wyoming just north of the Colorado state line.

In Amarillo, Texas, 3.7 inches of snow fell Wednes-day, more than triple the previous record for the date.

Hundreds of flights were grounded and others de-layed Wednesday at Dallas-Fort Worth International

Slain pregnant lady

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - The woman accused of strangling a mother-to-be and cutting the baby from her womb often faked being pregnant to get attention, even though she had her tubes tied 14 years ago, according to her ex-husband

Carl Boman, of Bartlesville, Okla., told Kansas City television station WDAF-TV on Tuesday that he thinks his former wife, Lisa M. Montgomery, became so wrapped up in her pregnancy story that she needed to come up with a baby

"I believe it drove her, this fact that she didn't want to be proven wrong in this situa-Boman said, "People tion " were looking at her like some thing wasn't quite right."

Montgomery has been charged with the death of Bobbie Jo Stinnett, 23, who was found dying in her Skidmore, Mo., home Dec. 16. The baby Stinnett had carried for eight months was missing

Montgomery has been incapable of having a baby since having her tubes tied in 1990 after delivering a baby girl, according to her ex-husband

Sudafed minus meth

EVANSVILLE, Ind. - The maker of Sudafed is offering a new version of the cold and allergy medicine without an ingredient often used to produce the illegal and highly addictive drug methamphetamine in homemade labs

Pseudoephedrine will be replaced with another sub-stance, phenylephrine, in a new product called Sudafed PE, Pfizer Inc. spokeswoman Erica Johnson said Wednesday. Pfizer will continue to offer the old Sudafed, too. In many states, pharmacists keep Sudafed and other cold medicines used to make meth behind a counter.

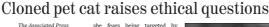
Kerik resigns firm

NEW YORK - Citing the "distraction" created by the rash of allegations against him, former police commissioner Bernard Kerik has resigned from Rudolph Giuliani's consulting firm.

The announcement came less than two weeks after Kerik, amid questions about a nanny-housekeeper he em-ployed, gave up his nomination as the next U.S. homeland security chief. He has also been accused of having extramarital affairs and dealing with a construction company suspected of mob ties

"The events surrounding my withdrawal have become an unfair and unnecessary distraction to the firm and most importantly to the work they do at the firm." he said at a news conference Wednesday in Manhattan

Little Nicky was created by the Sausalito, Calif.-based company Genetic Savings and Clone, His owner paid \$50,000 for him.



SAN FRANCISCO - The first cloned-to-order pet sold in the United States is named Little Nicky, a 9-week-old kitten delivered to a Texas woman saddened by the loss of a cat she had owned for 17 years.

The kitten cost its owner \$50,000 and was created from DNA from her beloved Maine coon cat, named Nicky, who died last year

"He is identical. His personality is the same," the owner, Julie, said in an interview. She asked that her last name and hometown not be disclosed because she said groups opposed to cloning.

The company that created Little Nicky, Sausalito-based Genetic Savings and Clone, said it hopes by May to have produced the world's first cloned dog - a much more lucrative market than

The kitten's creation and sale reignited fierce ethical and scientific debate over cloning technology, which is rapidly advancing.
"It's morally problematic and a

little reprehensible," said David Magnus, co-director of the Center for Biomedical Ethics at Stanford University. "For \$50,000, she could have provided homes for a



Company gun-shy about touting toy

Kids' classic Christmas gift comes wrapped in mystique, controversy

BY MELISSA NELSON The Associated Press

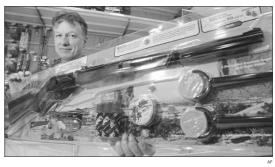
LITTLE ROCK, Ark. - In popular culture, the Red Ryder BB gun is "the Holy Grail of Christmas gifts," but the maker of the present so desperately desired by Ralphie Parker in the movie "A Christmas Story" is gun-shy when it comes to publicity.

"They are a classic American brand, but anytime you talk about selling guns to kids in today's society, they are pariah," said New York-based toy consultant Chris Byrne, who isn't surprised that Daisy Outdoor Products doesn't boast about the gun's popularity.

Daisy would answer only limited questions and a snokesman emphasized that the company's BB guns are not toys

"They are not purchased by children and should not be used by young people without adult su-pervision," said Joe Murfin, Daisy's vice president of marketing. "A BB gun or an air gun is an appropriate Christmas gift assuming the parent making the gift is willing to take the time to work with the young person and teach them gun safety and marksman-

The gun, named for the comic strip cowboy Red Ryder, re-mained a favorite among children for decades and was the inspiration for the 1983 movie "A Christmas Story," about a young boy in the 1940s who longs for 'an official Red Ryder, carbine action, 200-shot, Range Model



Little Rock, Ark., sporting goods store employee Matthew Waton poses with a packaged Daisy Red Ryder BB gun Tuesday. Despite the mass appeal of the BB gun - and being the object of desire for Ralphie Parker in "The Christmas Story" — the toy's manufacturer is reluctant to publicize the controversial gift.

air rifle with a compass on the stock and this thing which tells

Despite the cult popularity of the movie, and the zest for Daisy and Red Ryder memorabilia among collectors, the company

has for years shunned publicity Recent negative news could contribute to the company's desire to keep a low profile. Last year, Daisy settled a lawsuit brought by the government

that alleged defects in 7.5 million high-velocity, multi-pump pel-let-BB rifles marketed to shooters age 16 and up.

Daisy collector Neal Pun-

chard, who wrote a retrospective coffee-table book to mark the company's first century, said it is a shame that such a venerable American institution has gotten overlooked because there is such an anti-gun backlash. then, anyway you slice it, they're selling guns to kids," he said.

New Jersey's ban on carols sparks debate

BY DAVID PORTER The Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. - As a Jewish boy growing up in Texas, Joel Schwartzberg performed many traditional Christmas songs in the elementary school choir

Uncomfortable about singing evangelical versions of songs Night "Silent Schwartzberg kept his lips sealed during those parts. He remembers being told by his teacher that he had to sing all the words if he wanted to participate.

Schwartzberg said those memories surfaced this month when the South Orange-Maplewood school district decided to ban instrumental Christmas carols at school-sponsored holiday con-

The Alliance Defense Fund, an Arizona-based organization that funds legal actions in cases involving religious expression, is considering challenging South Orange-Maplewood's decision in

"When these school boards start censoring Christ out of the holidays, they're on the wrong side of the Constitution," said Gary McCaleb, the group's senior counsel. "It's a kind of Orwellian doublespeak, in my mind."

Jessica Schneider, a 16-yearold who plays in the ensemble band at Columbia High in Maplewood called the district's Christmas carol ban "kind of silly."

"Personally, I don't know anyone who objected, and as a stu-



Joel Schwartzberg holds his daughter, Mylie, at a holiday display in Maplewood, N.J., last week, Schwartzberg says he supports his school district's ban on Christmas carols at school holiday concerts.

dent who's part of the school's Jewish population, I would think I would have," Schneider said,

"To me, it's just music and it's giving the community something to be happy about it."Schwartzberg said a line can

"When students are compelled to engage in evangelical activities even without intent or proselytizing - with the alternative being nothing except to sit out. I think that's not appropriate.'

Foragers turn holidays green with mistletoe

BY PHYLLIS SPEIDELL The Virginian-Pilot (Norfolk, Va.)

SUFFOLK, Va. - Jay Matthews put the shotgun to his shoulder and fired a single shot high into the branches of a tree.

The 15-year-old smiled as his catch fluttered to the ground - a prime clump of mistletoe, shiny green leaves, waxy white berries and Christmas money in his pock-

Shooting mistletoe from the treetops is a time-honored technique for harvesting the holiday greenery that usually grows too high for plucking from the ground. For Jay, an enterprising ophomore at Western Branch High School in Suffolk, it's a family tradition and a way to earn some money.

But this method is by no means the only way to harvest the traditional holiday smoothing incen-

For the past 16 years, Ron Holmes of Hampton has used a gentler way. The mechanic, who trims trees in his spare time, scrambles as high as 100 feet up trees to hand pick the best houghs.

Mistletoe isn't something people grow. It spreads from tree to tree via birds, especially the cedar waxwing, a migratory bird that loves the berries.

Holmes delivers some of the mistletoe to retailers such as Norfolk Wholesale Floral and gives away even more to friends and

The profits, usually only a few hundred dollars, go to the five Holmes children for their Christmas shopping.

Program helps moms get home for holidays — and beyond



Tanva Y. Pickle weeps as she sits next to Atlanta Falcons running back Warrick Dunn, right, and her youngest son, Kendrell Miller, 1. in her new home in St. Petersburg, Fla.

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. - Tanya Pickle fought for some semblance of control as Atlanta Falcons football player Warrick Dunn handed her the keys to her new home. It was a losing battle

Tears rolled down the single mother's face as she stammered a surprised "thank you" to the man helping her pay \$115,000 for a place that

man neiping her pay \$115,000 for a place that she and her two boys can call their own. "You can cry," Dunn said softly, and that Pick-le did, as she toured the three-bedroom, two-bath home, furnished right down to chocolate chip cookies in the cookie jar and a Christ-

mas tree in the living room.

"Thank you, thank you," Pickle, 28, kept repeating before a crowd that included housing officials and her new neighbors. "I love it!"

Pickle, who works as a shipping and receiving manager for a small St. Petersburg company, is among 52 single moms and 135 children and dependents aided by the Warrick Dunn Foundation's "Homes for the Holidays" program in St. Petersburg, Tampa, St. Louis, Atlanta and Baton Rouge, La.

Rouge, I.a.

Dunn, a former Tampa Bay Buccaneer, launched the program in 1997 in memory of his own single mother, who had longed all her life for her own home — and died without having

"This is why the program is so special," Dunn said quietly. "Because you can help other peo-ple live their dream." With the foundation's assistance Pickle got

home at a discount. Dunn contributed \$5,000, the city gave \$10,000 in the form of a "forgiven loan" that will expire after 10 years; the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development contributed \$37,950.

Pickle put down \$2,000 of her own money and will make total payments of \$611 per month for a mortgage of about \$65,000, according to Karen Cioce, community lending officer for Am-South Bank, who assisted in the closing.

Ga. shipbuilders played Santa in 1944

1.500 volunteers worked for free on Christmas to get one more vessel out by year's end

BY RUSS BYNUM The Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Ga. - With the Battle of the Bulge raging in west ern Europe during World War II, workers at a Brunswick shipyard were determined to deliver one more ship by year's end

To get the job done, laborers were needed around the clock on Christmas Day. About 1,500 volunteered - and they worked for

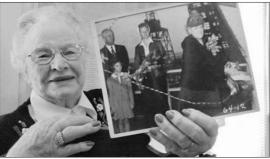
Newspapers across the United States carried the story in their afternoon editions Dec. 25; 60 years later their hard work and generosity remains a point of pride in the

"We were Santa Claus," recalled 81-year-old Nanelle Surrency Bacon

The shipyard built freighters to carry troops and supplies to the front lines of World War II

It made its December quota before the holiday, launching its sixth ship Dec. 23, 1944. But Bacon and her co-workers at J.A. Jones Construction Co. shipyard were determined to do more

Bacon and John Clyde Smith who supervised 100 electricians at the shipyard, could not remember whose idea it was to build seven ships in December and donate their Christmas overtime pay to the sailors taking those vessels overseas. But Bacon remembers reporting for a 16-hour workday and seeing a Christmas tree. which her supervisor had cut from the woods, posted by the



World War II ship builder Nanelle Surrency Bacon holds a photograph of herself, while at her home in Jesup. Ga. The photo was taken in 1944 during a christening ceremony of a U.S. Navy ship. Bacon is shown at center in the 1944 photo. Bacon and her fellow shipbuilders met their quota and them some that year.

front gate. During breaks over crackers and Coca-Cola, she led co-workers in singing "Silent Night" and "O Little Town of Be thlehem.

In photographs from that Christmas, a man dressed as Santa Claus kneels on the docks with a blowtorch, flanked by two female welders.

"Shipyard workers here put in their eight hours today - free," read one Associated Press dis-

patch from Brunswick, "It was a Christmas present for the fighting forces on the front line.

After Christmas, workers received their holiday overtime checks already separated from their normal pay. They signed those checks over to the U.S. Trea-

shipyard's 13 union leaders. J.A. Jones Co. then matched the workers' gift, donating an additional \$16,080.

Adm. Emory S. Land, chairman of the U.S. Maritime Commission "This is a performance unequaled by any of the six-way vards," Land wrote, "By exceed-

ing the deliveries expected of it, your yard has made an extra contribution toward hastening the day of victory. The 3,500-ton freighters,

in a wire telegram from Vice

known as Liberty ships, measured 447 feet long and were relatively crude vessels - stemming from the Allies' need to build ships faster than German U-boats could sink them.

Using prefabricated parts that were welded rather than riveted, average production time was cut from 18 months to one month. The ships cost about \$2 million aniece

"She isn't much to look at, though, is she? A real ugly duck-ling," President Franklin D. Roosevelt said after first seeing blueprints for Liberty ships in 1941

The fleet, however, proved vital to the war effort. Author Walter W. Jaffee, who has written four books on the ships, says simply, "We couldn't have won the war without it."

The Brunswick shipyard built 99 of the 2,710 Liberty ships launched from 1941 until the war's end in 1945. It closed soon after the war.

sury and turned them in to the

system," Bacon said. "It made you feel like you had almost given your heart or your life for the We just walked around and hugged each other and patted people on the back. It was a celebration.

On Dec. 30, the Brunswick ship-

"You could feel the enthusiasm

of the person over the intercom

vard launched its seventh shin -

the William Cox.

On Jan. 2, 1945, the Brunswick

O tacky tree, o tacky tree

Museum curator turns joke into Christmas movement BY PAUL NOWELL

The Associated Press

BREVARD, N.C. - The guest book was blank on a recent morning at the world's only museum for aluminum Christmas trees

It was impossible to tell whether no one had been visiting - or if visitors were simply ashamed to admit having stopped at a shrine to holiday tacki-

What began as a joke in 1991, with a single shiny tree retrieved from the trash, has become an obses sion for curator Stephen Paul Jackson. The home designer, 48, confesses to fond feelings for his collection of eversilver trees

"I really like the retro look of the 1950s," Jackson said as he led a lone visitor on a tour of the museum, which fills part of the lobby of a college music hall in this town in North Carolina's western mountains 'As a designer, I like their simplicity. They don't try to compete with a real tree

When Jackson started his collection 13 years ago. raising his lone voice in defense of the fake Christmas tree, he unwittingly started a movement.

"I have a group of volunteers and fans who expect to see this every year," he said."I can't let them down

If it is schlock they want, Jackson is only too happy to oblige — often dressed in a vintage ma-roon-and-gold paisley sports coat that would be right at home on the set of the latest "Austin Powers" movie

Jackson struggles to keep a straight face as he recites the full name of his museum: The Aluminum Tree and Aesthetically Challenged Seasonal Orna-

ment Museum and Research Center, or ATOM for

This year's collection includes 30 trees of all shapes and sizes. Jackson even put a satellite muse um on tour by shipping 25 more trees to a friend who is displaying them in Nashville, Tenn.

In the foyer of Brevard College's Porter Center for the Performing Arts, vintage Christmas music floats through Jackson's treasure grove of silver, green and blue trees. The "Elvis Tree" has photos of the King hanging from its branches. The "Toilet Tree" has copper-colored floats for ornaments and is adorned with strands of pink, yellow and blue shower curtain connectors.

The museum also features a silver-belled "Bing Crosby Tree" and a blue-limbed "Frank Sinatra Tree" that pays tribute to Ol' Blue Eyes.

One tree sports pink flamingo ornaments, while another, sent from Australia, features koala bear and kangaroo ornaments.

The "Election Bush" has a political theme, and was particularly popular four years ago, during the Florida recount, Jackson said: "We decorated it with swinging chads."

Jackson's first tacky tree was a joke from a friend. Jackson returned the joke by holding a tacky orna-ment tree-trimming party. When subsequent annual parties outgrew Jackson's living room, he relocated the display, first to Brevard's American Legion hall and other locations. This year, he accepted an offer om the college to use the music hall's lobby.

Despite the absence of names in the guest book Jackson said the museum averages about 100 visi-tors per day, many of them attending concerts or



Stephen Paul Jackson, curator of the Aluminum Tree and Aesthetically Challenged Seasonal Ornament Museum and Research Center, is shown with one of the trees inside the museum in Brevard, N.C.

SPECIAL TO STARS AND STRIPES

Walter Scott's Personality

Want the facts? Opinions? Truth? Write Walter Scott, Box 5001, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163-5001, Full name will be used unless other

QI hear that Olympic gold-medal skater Brian Boitano had knee surgery. How's he doing? — Michael J., Spokane, Wash.

A "I was off the ice for three months before the surgery out feel great now," Boitano, 41, told us from his San Francisco home. "When I can't do the jumps and spread eagles and the surgery of the surge that my fans expect, I'll hang up my skates."

him Jan. 1 on NBC in the eighth annual "Brian

Boitano Skating Spectacular" from Las Vegas. Has Rebecca Romijn found love since divorcing John Stamos? —

Scott Harris, Denton, Texas A It sure looks that way. Rebecca, 32, has hooked up with another actor - Jerry O'Connell, 30, now appearing as a detective on NBC's "Crossing Jordan." The lovebirds began dating seriously last summer

while filming "The Alibi," and both recently finished shooting "Man About Town," starring Ben Affleck



Recently divorced Rebecca Romijn has found, er, love

co-star in "The Alibi."

again with Jerry O'Connell, her

AMr. Bush has several nicknames for Rove, 54, including "Boy Genius" and "Turd Blossom" (because, a friend explains, "something is sure to pop up" when Karl is around). A multimillionaire from his days in the direct-mail business, Rove lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife, Darby, and son. Andrew. 15

What are the odds that two of my favorites, Harrison Ford and Sharon Stone, will reprise their most famous roles — Ford as Indiana Jones and Stone in "Basic Instinct"? - Leonard Boris, Trenton, N.J.

We're told that financing has been secured for "Basic In-A we're told that financing has been seemed at the stinct 2," and a script is being written for a fourth Indiwoman. At 62. Ford may be getting too old to crack the whip. And, at 46, Stone looks great but may be a little stiff when she crosses her legs

Please settle a bet among friends. We know G.A. McKevett, author of the Savannah Reid mysteries, is the pen name of a noted writer but can't agree who. Is it Mary Higgins Clark, Sue Grafton or Janet Evanovich? - Linda Mullaney, Middle River, Md.

None of the above. G.A. McKevett — whose weight-con-scious heroine has solved nine mysteries with such gastronomic titles as "Peaches and Screams" — is really Sonja Massie, who has penned dozens of steamy romance novels under her own name. McKevett's 10th case, "Murder à la Mode," is due out next month

QI heard that some of The Rolling Stones have medical problems. Will that affect their future? — Rick Ryan, Media, Pa.

At their age, it's hard to say. Drummer Charlie Watts, 63, is doing well after treatment for throat cancer. Guitarist Ronnie Wood, the baby in the band at 57, has done stints in rehab for alcohol. They have no immediate plans to tour, but the Stones - Watts and Wood plus Mick Jagger and Keith Richards, both 61 — are working on a new album for

The Bobby Darin biopic, "Beyond the Sea," made me wonder: How's Sandra Dee doing? — Kay Nolan, Chicago, III.

A "Mom is still beautiful and feisty at 60, despite medical Aconcerns (she's on kidney dialysis)," says Dodd Darin, 43, the only child from the couple's 1960-67 marriage. "She was speechless after a private showing of 'Beyond the Sea' and thought it was a fitting legacy to Dad, who died of a heart condition in 1973 at age 37. I have not seen her so jazzed about anything in a long time."





Sharon Stone and Harrison Ford might not get an opportunity to reprise their best-known roles.



There's no end in sight for the increasingly aged Rolling Stones, though hard living has to catch up with them sometime

QI haven't seen the Sweeten kids on "Everybody Loves Raymond" since your item on them a few months back. Where have they been? — Ruth Rainford, West Windsor,

The Sweetens - Madylin, 13, and twins Sullivan and The Sweetens — mayini, 10, and marked Sawyer, 9 — missed the first few episodes of the season due to contract negotiations. But they've appeared recently (and get paid even if they don't work). "They're available for new shows when 'Raymond' quits production this spring," their mom, Lizz, tells us. "But they'll be fine whether they're on TV or not."

QIs Laurie Dhue of the Fox News Channel just another pretty face, or is she a real journalist? — Charles A. Harrington, Boynton Beach, Fla.

A Dhue, 36, may look like a Barbie doll, but the former CNN and MSNBC anchor has the curiosity and drive of a "real journalist." She could be sitting in a New York studio reading headlines, but Dhue begged to be sent to an overseas hot spot. She got her wish and now reports from

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RELIGION

Why is Christmas always on December 25?



The Nativity as depicted by French artist Paul Gustave Dore for his 1865 book, "The Bible." There are competing explanations regarding why Christmas is celebrated on December 25

Explanations compete about Christmas Day

BY RICHARD N. OSTLING The Associated Press

ultaneous pre-Christmas cover stories Time and Newsweek magazines sifted with skepti-cism the narratives of Jesus' birth in Matthew and Luke, the only accounts we have since no other chroniclers recorded this obscure peasant's nativity

It's far less important than those historical debates, but there's also a small disagreement about why the church later chose Dec. 25 for Christmas. Two main theories compete

One notes that in A.D. 274, the Roman Emperor Aurelian inaugurated Dec. 25 as the pagan "Birth of the Unconquered Sun" celebration, at the calendar point when daylight began to lengthen

Supposedly. Christians then borrowed the date and devised Christmas to compete with paganism. Aurelian's empire seemed near collapse, so his festival proclaimed imperial and pagan rejuvenation. Prior to 274 there's no record of a major sun cult at the Northern Hemisphere's winter solstice (the year's shortest day, which actually occurs be-

fore Dec. 25) William Tighe, a church history specialist at Pennsylvania's Muhlenberg College, champions the exact opposite theory.

Aurelian almost certainly created "a pagan alternative to a date that was already of some significance to Roman Christians," Tighe wrote last De-cember in Touchstone, a Chicago-based magazine for Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant traditionalists. True, the Christians later appropriated Aurelian's festival into their Christmas

But Dec. 25 "appears to owe nothing whatsoever to pagan influences," Tighe asserted. He said the pagans-first theory originated only three centuries ago in the writings of Protestant historian Paul Ernst Jablonski and Catholic monk Jean Hardouin. Tighe acknowledged that the first hard evidence

of Christmas occurring on Dec. 25 isn't found until A.D. 336 and the date only became a fixed festival in Constantinople in 379

However, the definitive "Handbook of Biblical Chronology" by professor Jack Finegan (Hendrick-son, 1998 revised edition) cites an important refer-

ence in the "Chronicle" written by Hinnolytus of Rome three decades before Aurelian launched his

Hippolytus said Jesus' birth "took place eight days before the kalends of January," that is, Dec. 25. Tighe said there's evidence that as early as the sec ond and third centuries, Christians sought to fix the birth date to help determine the time of Jesus' death and resurrection for the liturgical calendar — long before Christmas also became a festival.

The New Testament Gospels say the Crucifixion happened at the Jewish Passover season. The "integral age" concept, taught by ancient Judaism though not in the Bible, held that Israel's great prophets died the same day as their birth or concep-

Quite early on, Tighe said, Christians applied this idea to Jesus and set the Passover period's March 25 for the Feast of the Annunciation, marking the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary that she would give birth. Add nine months to the conception date and we get Dec. 25.

Last year, Inside the Vatican magazine also supported Dec. 25, citing a report from St. John Chrysos-tom (patriarch of Constantinople who died in A.D. 407) that Christians had marked Dec. 25 from the early days of the church.

Chrysostom had a further argument that modern scholars ignore: Luke 1 says Zechariah was performing priestly duty in the Temple when an angel told his wife Elizabeth she would bear John the Baptist. During the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, Mary learned about her conception of Jesus and vis ited Elizabeth "with haste."

The 24 classes of Jewish priests served one week in the Temple, and Zechariah was in the eighth class. Rabbinical tradition fixed the class on duty when the Temple was destroyed in A.D. 70 and, cal-culating backward from that, Zechariah's class would have been serving Oct. 2-9 in 5 B.C. So Mary's conception visit six months later might have oc-curred the following March and Jesus' birth nine

"Though it is not a matter of faith, there is no good reason not to accept the tradition" of March 25 con-ception and Dec. 25 birth, the magazine contended.

Holidays a time of bigger crowds, opportunities for churches By JAY LINDSAY

The Associated Press

BOSTON - To describe his feelings at the pulpit during a jam-packed Christmas worship service, the Rev. Paul McPheeters talks "Monday Night Football.

The excitement of speaking in front of a big holiday crowd is like a player's during the prime-time game, he says. So many wor-shippers attend only on the holidays, and every preacher wants the service to be memorable and moving. The result, says McPheeters, of Forest-

dale Community Church, is that when he stands in the pulpit he's just "a little more jacked up about it" than on a typical Sunday.

So are many of his colleagues. Around the country, ministers in churches big and small are preparing to welcome the annual rush of visitors who attend just on Christmas or Easter. These "Holiday Christians," as some call them, come for many reasons - whether they're dragged by family members or attracted to a hopeful message during what can be a time of loneliness.

Pastors and priests say they strive to be friendly, inspirational and clear about the Christmas message of God coming to earth to redeem humanity.

But whether it's music, drama or homilies, church leaders know that whatever do must be done exceptionally well, said the Rev. Daniel Benedict, director of

worship resources at The United Methodist Church General Board of Discipleship.

"Culturally, the expectations are extremely high for Christmas," he said. "Worship services that don't meet the high expecta tions are doomed to failure for everyone, but particularly for the guests that are there infrequently

Despite its commercialization, Christmas remains a time of personal and spiritual reflection, and that makes people open to the Christian message, said Gerald Mann of the Riverbend Church in Austin, Texas.

This is the time of year to shine the light on all the dark places in your head, Mann said. "I think it's God's declaration that no matter how secular society gets. you can't kill God.

Pastors say they don't want holiday visitors to feel guilty because of their infrequent attendance or embarrassed because they're unfamiliar with church rituals Some churches don't take offerings, so visitors won't feel the church is just after their

"We don't want people singled out or feeling awkward," said the Rev. Gordon Hugenberger, pastor the historic Park Street Church in Boston. "We're thrilled they're here "

Churches offer a variety of ways to tell the Christmas story, from simple candle light services to elaborate musical presentations. For instance, the "Christmas Bursts

presentation at Washington Cathedral in Redmond, Wash., features a live manger scene, soloists and harpists

Involving children is a way to grab the attention of visiting parents and grandpar-ents who come to watch them. It also emphasizes how God came to earth as a child, said the Rev. Erwin Lutzer of The Moody Church in Chicago. He gathers his congre gation's children around him to tell the Christmas story during his service.

And, yes, he and other pastors get nervous when they look out at the congrega-

"There's a certain mood," Lutzer said. 'We all want to do well. We want to make Jesus look good, if I can put it that way,'

The Rev. Joseph Juknialis, associate pastor at St. Peter and Paul Parish in Milwaukee, said Christmas is one of those times "when you really wish you could preach

McPheeters said that, for the first five of his 20 years in ministry, his main thought before the Christmas service was "Lord, get me out of here." But as years have passed, he's learned to rely on God to work through him, he said. Benedict of the Methodist board said that kind of thinking can help.

"Perhans that is what unbinds the tension in this." he said.

Pastors interviewed said they don't do much to follow up with Christmas visitors, apart from routine steps such as sending



The Rev. Paul McPheeters, pastor at the Forestdale Community Church in Malden. Mass., said Tuesday he expects crowded church services during the holiday season.

letters to those who sign a guest book White, of Washington Cathedral, said he relies on the Christmas story to draw people

"The Christmas message itself is inspiring to people who come from an unchurched background," White said. "If it's an inspiring experience for people ... that takes down a lot of barriers.

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Mallard Fillmore (Dec. 25)

Hunting has positives

I would like to ask the writer of the letter "Hunting photo unneces-sary" (Dec. 14) what hunting has to do with proving our manhood. Does that mean the numerous women who hunt are trying to maybe she is right, it is so much better to see an "innocent animal" starve to death, suffering for months, because of overpopulation and lack of food

I will agree with the writer on one thing: Yes, there are a few

people who are barbaric with hunting and to my knowledge that is called poaching.

I understand that people have different views, but to be called a "coward" and a "yahoo" because of a sport that I and many others enjoy is just too much. I could think of many names that people with her point of view could be called but I refuse to stoop to name-calling. Instead I will think of her and smile when I am enjoy-

ing my next dinner of venison Sgt. Timothy C. Irwin Baqouba, Iraq

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Jord, please give your place, strength and guidance to our torn and troubled world on this day and all others TINESTEN 12-20

Doonesbury (Dec. 25 and 26)



























Looking at the news

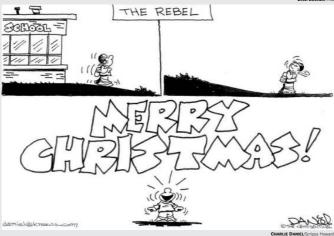
A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons











OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates

Iraq vote amid the bloodshed Los Angeles Times

The attack Tuesday on a U.S. military base in northern Iraq that killed more than 20 people ... provided graphic evidence that the insurgency is little diminished.

Many of the guerrillas driven from Fallujah last month when U.S. officials proclaimed a major victory moved to Mosul and other cities and continue to wreak havoc. President Bush's belated admission Monday that suicide bombers are "having an effect" understated the problem.

Some Sunni leaders already are urging a boycott of the elections, which will choose a transitional national assembly to write a constitution and pick a prime minister. This is a mistake on their part. A boycott would undercut, though not destroy, the legitimacy of the balloting. But it would ensure that Sunnis have even less of a voice in the future of their nation.

their nation.

For Wassington, the main concern is graFor Wassington, the main concern is graFor Wassington, and was a concern in the forth election results to be deemed credible Bush said Monday the training of Iraqi
security forces had produced "mixed" results. That was another understatement —
many troops have fied when attacked. We
can only hope that an Iraq government with
the can only hope that an Iraq government with
the main of the control of the control of the control
that and solders to stand and fight.

Trouble is, for that to happen the election that could provide that greater legitimacy needs to be held, and protected.

Reaction to verdict disturbing Chicago Tribune

Outside the California courtroom where jurors sentenced convicted murderer Scott Peterson on Dec. 13, hundreds of onlookers let out a cheer and high-fived each other when they learned of the recommendation that he be put to death.

The disturbing scene conjured images of public square hangings in colonial America, where a giddy, almost celebratory mood hung in the air the way it might at a summer Little League championship.

Forget whether one believes Peterson to be innocent or guilty, deserving of death or life in prison. This kind of reaction was an embarrassment. ... In the case of the Peterson trial, (the crowd's) size and exuberance were fueled in part by the disproportionate, lurid interest cable television and tablod news took in this particular trial. ...

Death sentences may well be an expression of a community's moral outrage toward the crime committed, but high-fiving? Death as sport? There was nothing to celebrate here.

Insurers add to Fla. damage Florida Today, Melbourne

The state Cabinet was right to extend an order stopping insurers from canceling the policies of owners unable to get hard-to-arrange repairs for hurricane-damaged homes...

But why stop with half-measures, when it's obvious the state should prohibit any insurer operating in Florida from canceling any homeowner policy just because of hurricane damage — not just for a few weeks, but ever.

In case the insurance businesses don't quite understand the deal they make with customers, let us explain: Property owners pay large sums each year for coverage in case of disaster. Insurers are supposed to pay claims promptly.

For them to cancel policies in what amounts to a punishment for making claims is ludicrous.

But it's so common that the moratorium



was needed to protect the home-mortgage market, which faces a classic Catch 22. Damaged homes are uninsurable, but all mortgaged homes must be insured.

That just got a temporary fix. Now, the state must prohibit all insurers from dumping customers simply for seeking the coverage they paid for.

Hamm helped all find the net Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Mia Hamm didn't invent women's soccer, nor did she blaze the trail allowing women on the field. But she turned what had been a dirt road into an interstate highway, presiding over an era of astronomical growth and popularity for women's soccer.

For nearly two decades, she has been the best women's soccer player in the world. Ms. Hamm retired with 158 goals in international competitions, the most of any soccer player in history, male or female. ... For a whole generation of young soccer players, Ms. Hamm served as an inspiration. ...

Mia Hamm's influence stretches beyond soccer. Born only months after the passage of Title IX, she symbolizes a second wave in the rise of women's athletics; sports once relegated only to high school and college fields are now ticketed spectator events with maintream fans and corporate endorsements.

stream fails and corporate choosesments...

As Ms. Hamm repeats and nauseam in incar isn't just about her. Four of Ms. Hamm's
teammates on the gold-medal winning Atheam of the gold-medal winning Atheam Olympics team also played for the national team starting in the 1980s— and most
are also on the verge of retiring. To Julie
Foudy, Kristine Lilly, Brandi Chastain, Joy
Fawcett and Mia Hamm, we say thanks, and
enjoy the view from the sidelines.

Time to 'reset the force' Yakima (Wash.) Herald-Republic

While griping in the ranks is a military tradition, a member of the Tennessee National Guard took it to a new level when Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who had dropped by a base in Kuwait for a brief pep talk, got peppered himself instead.

"Why do we soldiers have to dig through local landfills for pieces of scrap metal and compromised ballistic glass to up-armor our vehicles?" Spc. Thomas Wilson, a member of the Tennessee National Guard, asked of the Pentagon chief. "We do not have proper armored wehicles to carry with us north."

Chalk one up for the grunts. The guards-

man has a good point, and Rumsfeld's lame response only further illustrates just how ill-prepared the Pentagon and military brass were for an extended deployment in Iraq.

More than 21 months after President Bush declared "mission accomplished," there is a crying need for what is called, in military jargon, "resetting the force." ... [Clurrent efforts at resupply and upgrade

[C]urrent efforts at resupply and upgrade are too slow and not enough. And it shouldn't take the quizzing of the defense chief by an enlisted man to point that out.

Army's account doesn't add up The Lima (Ohio) News

The Army [this month] provided a couple more examples of why it is becoming increasingly difficult to believe what one hears — at least what one hears first — from the military.

The drowning death of an Elida [Ohio] native in Iraq appears to be the most recent Army information blunder. The circumstances of Staff Sgt. Aaron Todd Reese's death last December will have to wait until an investigation is complete, but there's littitle reason for optimism about the Army, given the track record.

Reese fell from a patrol boat into the Tigris River south of Baghdad in December 2003. Another soldier, Spc. Todd Bates, a 20-year-old Bellaire native, jumped into the water to rescue Reese, but both men

U.S. Rep. Bob Ney early this month asked the Army to investigate the deaths. The Bates family contacted the St. Clairsville Republican after a soldier said Bates and Reese were forced to use a boat to patrol that lacked safety equipment....

Perhaps if we could trust the Army to release accurate information, people like the Reese and the Bates families wouldn't have to go through this. ... The Army is making the families of fallen soldiers suffer a second time.

Movement fails honesty test The Anniston (Ala.) Star

Most "reforms" — whether liberal or conservative — come as part of a political agenda. Consider charter schools. A couple of decades ago conservative ideologues, upset with the power of teachers' unions and education lobbyists, began blaming what they felt was the sad state of schools on the bureaucrast bath arn things.

To deal with the problems that they invent-

the idea of charter schools. Under the charter system, certain schools would continue to get tax money but would be freed from all the rules and regulations that conservatives claimed were holding them back....

Now, after a decent period of experimentation, the results are coming in. And guess what? According to a report just released by the U.S. Department of Education, on tests administered in 2003 to fourth-gradiers in charter school students did not do any better than regular school students did not do any better than regular school students and in math they did significantly worse. ... Charter schools are not producing what was prombed to the contract of the contract of the school say to the Bush administration school so the Bush administration school so the Bush administration school so the Bush administration school scho

Make the right call on flights Rochester (N.Y.) Democrat and Chronicle

Many stressed-out travelers look forward to the moment when an airline attendant asks them to please turn off their cell phones and wireless Internet devices.

Flights provide one of the few stretches in modern times when a person can't answer a phone, can't reply to an e-mail and can't check stock prices. Floating far above all the work that's waiting, airline passengers find peace, quiet and calm.

Well, no more, says the Federal Communications Commission. It voted, on [Dec. 15], to allow high-speed Internet connections on airplanes. Cell phones may be next.

Since the announcement, the FCC has been flooded with e-mails from people begging it to maintain the ban on cell phones during flights. We agree that spending hours trapped in a tight cabin surrounded by people discussing their shopping lists is nothing to look forward to.

Of course, there's always hope that enterprising airlines will capitalize on this development by offering communication-free sections....

tions....

In the meantime, people should savor quiet flights, knowing that they may one day look back fondly on a time when it was possi-

Education financing alternatives for Navy spouses

Туре	Name	Range	Given by
Grants (Don't have to be paid back)		
	Pell	\$400 to \$4,000 a year	Federal government
	Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	\$100 to \$4,000 a year	Federal government through schools
	State	Variable	States
	Spouse Tuition Aid Program (Overseas only)	\$1,500/yr undergraduate \$1,750/yr graduate	Navy-Marine Corps Relief
	Scholarships	Variable	Non profits, corporations, schools
Loans (N	leed to be paid back)		
	Stafford	\$2,625, \$3,500 and \$5,500	Federal govt, through banks
	Perkins	Up to \$4,000	Federal govt, through schools
	Private	Variable	Non profits, corporations
Other			
	Federal Work-Study Program	Variable	Schools
	Secured Ioan	Variable	Bank/credit union
	Home-equity Joan	Variable	Bank/credit union
	Credit cards	Variable	Banks

There are ways to find time, money for school

Susie Besaw, from the book "The Savvy Sailor's Spouse," is new to the military lifestyle but is eager to learn more about how to manage her family and her new lifestyle through the monthly Family Readi ness Group meetings of her husband Jake's new command

fter the break, Bob continued talking about ow Susie could reach her education goals "Remember we are working backward to achieve Susie's goal of building custom databases with her own company. We have an idea of how much she won't make if she decides not to go back to school. We also have a good estimate of what it will cost for her degree. Assuming we've found her the right school let's figure out how she's going to pay for it. Anybody have any ideas how to pay for a degree? Money U.

"Put it on a credit card?" a



sailor in the back joked

"Possibly, as a last resort," Bob replied with a smile. "But there are less expensive ways. "Here's a handout on college financing including:

Grants - which do not have to be repaid.

Loans — which have to be repaid usually with interest deferred until graduation.

"Let's walk through a sum-

mary of these different alternatives and try to figure out how Susie is going to find the money she needs to finish

her degree. "Remember, families are granted financial governmental aid based primarily on their Expected Family Contribution, or EFC, a calculation performed by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. Students must submit an FAFSA in order to apply for Federal Pell Grants, Perkins Loan, Stafford Loans, work study, and support from

state and nonstate schools 'Where can I get a FAFSA?" someone asked. "You can download them from the Web," Bob

"Is there any tuition assistance for spouses like there is for servicemembers?" Sharyn Sun, our mem-

bership chair, asked.

"No," Bob replied. "There is no military spouse tuition assistance except for some military support or ganizations such as Navy Relief - and then, it's usually not enough to cover everything. That's why I

made this chart of both public and private sources."

"Are we limited to one source of financing or can we combine the different grants, loans and other sources to cover costs?" Sharyn asked.

"You can get financial assistance from multiple

For the time-strapped

Through the miracle of the Internet, there is an easier way to earn a degree called distance learning. Thousands of people earn their college degrees each year using online education. Distance learning was developed specifically to provide the flexibility needed to fit the busy schedules of students trying to manage a career or family, including military spouses

When you are deciding on which school to attend, consider the following:

Accreditation. Is the school regionally or nationally accredited and do the instructors hold appropriate degrees? If not, the school may be a diploma mill. Avoid diploma mills. They love to take advantage of servicemembers, their spouses, and others who don't research them thor-

■ Student evaluations. You want to be evaluated on a regular basis. If you're not, you may be caught up in a diploma mill. What good is a de-

gree if you are not being graded? Research materials. Make sure the school offers plenty of easy-to-find and use research mate rials for your coursework. You don't want to be

searching everywhere to finish your assignments ■ Course content. Make sure you are getting the full learning experience instead of just completing reading assignments

■ Student/teacher interaction. Are you going to be interacting with your professor and other students? Make sure you can use chat rooms, instant messaging, teleconferencing, and maybe even video conferencing and that the technology works

- Ralph Nelson

sources," Bob replied. "That's what many students have to do. Let's talk about the different financing

options, starting with grants.
"The federally awarded Pell Grant is between \$400 to \$4,000 a year — awarded based on your EFC, the cost of attendance and your enrollment status. It's awarded to the neediest undergraduate students who have not yet earned a bachelor's or higher degree.

"The Federal Supplemental Education Opportuni-ty Grant, or FSEOG, is a \$100 to \$4,000 per school year campus-based grant - meaning the college gives it — and is awarded to the neediest undergraduate students who have not vet earned a bachelor's or professional degree

SEE EDUCATION ON PAGE 23

Stores mull wine to loosen wallets

The Wall Street Journal

When the two women first stopped by Boogaloos Boutique one recent night, they didn't buy anything. When the pair returned to Penny Scheetz's store three hours later, they were a tad tipsy.

One lingered over a cable-knit sweater with a snowflake design.
"Go ahead," Scheetz overheard one woman urging her friend.

"You've done worse things when you were drunk. Just buy it." She did, for \$110.

It was Thursday in Decatur, Ga., the night of the town's weekly Terrific Thursday party. A vellow school bus upholstered with wildly colored fur, paid for by the city, transported shoppers around the downtown shopping district. At some stores, they enjoyed appetizers — and glasses of wine. Small urban shopping areas

have long tried to keep shoppers from visiting faraway malls or larger chains by opening late and offering sizable discounts. Now, many across the country are adding something extra to keep the cash tills lubricated: a drink or two, or three A month ago Melissa Daniel a

28-year-old technology consultant in Chicago, hit an evening holiday party at a trendy Brazilian boutique called SOLEPassion. She recalls tossing back two glass es of champagne, without eating dinner, "and suddenly everything started looking good." She ended up with two sweaters costing \$100 each. Two weeks later, she went to a sample-sale party, held by several merchants, sipped more champagne, and bought a \$200 discounted Gucci duffel bag that hadn't seemed necessary when she was sober.

"I always like everything I buy," she says. "I just end up spending more than I planned." The downtown shopping district

of Quincy, Ill., which was losing customers to nearby Springfield and St. Louis, has turned Christmas shopping into a social event Stores serve champagne during the December "Candlelight and Champagne" shopping evening, which started about five years ago. Outside, the eight-block, historic area is decorated with luminarias — sand-filled paper bags lit by a candle — Christmas wreaths and music. "Ladies come in their fur coats

for the evening," says Karol Ehmen, executive director of the Historic Quincy Business District.

Ehmen has shared the ide with other communities Some say their customers wouldn't he attracted by free alcohol. She suggests they give out chocolate in-

The laws governing who can serve alcohol vary dramatically among states. Often, they're also subject to the interpretation of local liquor boards. In Illinois, for example, it's illegal to give away alcohol, except at private parties In Texas, stores can give away al cohol if they don't charge an entry fee. In New Jersey, a store would need to hire a caterer.

Other ticklish problems arise.



Columbia University students Katie Cizewski, left, and Flizaheth Cedars take a break from shopping in front of H & M's holiday window in New York last week. In an effort to attract customers and pull them away from larger competitors - some boutiques are offering incentives like free wine and chocolates.

Some shops have been known to cut off customers in mid-spend-ing, and drinking. At a fall 2003 private shopping party at a boutique called Armoire, owner Nan Hager watched one intoxicated woman pick out \$1,200 in clothes and jewelry. Hager insisted she leave the goods behind at the Bradenton, Fla., store, and call back the next day when she was sober. In the end, the shopper stuck with her order

Camille Wright, owner of the Kaleidoscope Boutique in Deca tur, serves only clear-colored drinks, just in case there are any spills. Wright says her customers are mostly well-behaved, although she recalls last fall that one drunken shopper spent \$1,500 on a fur-trimmed coat, jeans and other clothes after a visit to a city beer festival.

The bad news for smaller stores is that their larger competitors are trying the same trick. Two weeks ago in Chicago, Neiman Marcus stationed barte ers throughout its four-story building to serve customers at-tending the "InCircle" shopping party for big spenders.

Brendon Frank wasn't expect-

ing a tipple when he showed up at Ranana Renublic's flagshin San Francisco store last December.

Five glasses later, the 28-year-old cancer researcher had added to his girlfriend's Christmas loot. He spent \$50 more than he intended. Frank reckons the value of the champagne he drank outweighed the cost of the extra mer-chandise. "I ended up coming out ahead," he claims.

YOUR MONEY

Signs of 'debting' problem

Money Talk

Q: I am a licensed therapist who has filed for bank-ruptcy three times so far — two Chapter 7 liquidations and one Chapter 13 repayment plan. If I make \$150,000 a year, I spend every single dime. What can I do to get my credit back and stop this mad-

A: You've used the correct word to describe your condition, all right.

Repeatedly spending yourself into bank-ruptcy is a kind of insanity and one that's probably not treatable with a financial

self-help book or two.

Many people wind up in bankruptcy court after a serious financial setback, such as uninsured medical bills or a job loss. Their bankruptcies are a once-in-a-lifetime event; they learn from their mistakes and move on. By contrast, you've dug the same hole three times and still think you'll somehow be able to handle credit in the future.

Lots of your fellow citizens would consider you to be an abuser of the bankruptcy system, but the real victim is you. You probably haven't been able to accumulate much in the way of assets or wealth; anything you had has proba-

bly long since been seized to pay your creditors. Whatever is driving your compulsive consumerism needs serious treatment. Therapy is one option: so is a 12-step program like Debtors Anonymous.

DA is based on the principals of Alcoholics Anony mous and identifies the following as some of the signs of what it calls "compulsive debting":

■ Being unclear about your financial situation such as not knowing your checking account balance or being clueless about your monthly expenses ■ Frequently "borrowing" items or money from

■ Poor savings habits and failing to plan for taxes retirement and other predictable expenses.

Compulsive shopping, including being unable

to pass up a bargain, making impulsive purchases and not using items you've purchased.

Difficulty in meeting basic obligations, and an

inordinate sense of accomplishment when

such obligations are met.

Getting a different feeling when buying on credit instead of cash, such as feel-ing of being "in the club." Living in chaos and drama around money.

■ Taking financial risks, including going without health and car insurance or writ-

ing checks hoping money will appear to er them. ■ Unwarranted inhibition and embar-

rassment in what should be a normal discussion of money. Overworking or underearning, such as

working extra hours to earn money to pay creditors If any of these signs ring a bell, you

might want to get more information from the Debt-ors Anonymous Web site at www.debtorsanonymous.org, or call (781) 453-2743.

The good news is that you can treat this problem and keep the madness at bay. The bad news is that you may have to give up the idea of having unse-cured credit ever again. If you think about it. though, that's a pretty small price for having sanity returned to your life.

LEUTING BY JOHN INC.

LE Pulliam Weston is the author of "Your Credit Score: How to Fix, Improve and Protect the 3-Digit Number That Shapes Your Financial Future." Questions for Money Talk can be submitted via her Web site, http://www.lizweston.com, although she regrets that she cannot respond personally to queries.

Education: Financial aid options are available

EDUCATION, FROM PAGE 22

The Navy-Marine Corns Re lief offers the Spouse Tuition Aid Program, or STAP, to overseas Navy spouses who are residing with their active-duty service-members. STAP is a grant of up to 50 percent of tuition for on-base education programs, up to a maxi-mum of \$300 per undergraduate term, \$1,500 per academic year; or \$350 per graduate term, \$1,750 per academic year. Full-time attendance is not required and graduate studies are supported

"Navy spouses may be awarded a scholarship based on community or civic service, extra-curricular achievements, career aspirations, the student's or parents' employer and organizational memberships The scholarship amounts awarded are all over the man, and you may need to apply for them every year vou are in school."

"If grants and scholarships don't cover costs, you should line

up loans. The problem with loans is they have to be paid back "Are education loans expen-sive?" Mary McCarthy, our trea-

surer, asked. "No, they usually have low in-terest rates," Bob answered.

"The Stafford Loan is a popular federal-based loan that you may or may not need to pay interest on while in school. First-year students can borrow up to \$2,625 on Stafford Loans; second-year stu-dents can borrow \$3,500; and third-year students can borrow \$5,500. The amount borrowed is determined after subtracting Pell Grants and other aid from the

cost of attending school.
"The Perkins Loan is another education loan the government offers. The amount you can borrow is based on the school you are attending. These are available for undergraduate and graduate students through your school's finan-cial aid office and are based on exceptional need. Loans can be given directly to the student or applied toward the student's tuition. The specific amount of the award up to \$4.000 — will be determined when the student applies based on financial need and the amount of money the school has available that year.

"One advantage of the Perkins Loan is you don't have to start repaying it until nine months after you graduate, leave school or when your course load drops below part time. The federal gov ernment pays the interest on the Perkins loan while you are in school and during the nine-month grace period. You also have 10 years to repay the loan. "The total Federal Work-Study

award depends on when you apply, your level of need and the funding level of your school. If you're an undergraduate, you'll be paid by the hour. If you're a graduate student, you might re ceive a salary.

"Finally, if you still need more

financial aid, you may borrow from the private sector, but you have to use their own application nrocess and these loans vary dependent upon your degree type.

"What if I need more to finish my degree?" the sailor asked. "If you still need more," Bob re

plied, "you can go to banks or credit unions where you can borrow against a savings account. If you own a home, you can borrow against your home's value through a home-equity loan. This is referred to as a secured loan.

'Your last option — to be considered only after all other avenues have been exhausted — is credit cards. But these loans carry high interest rates as you

Copies of Ralph Nelson's books — "The Savvy Sailor" and "The Savvy Naval Officer" — can be purchased by writing to: Master Plan Inc., 500 N. Washington St., P.O. Box 10071, Rockville, MD 20849 SL. P.O. Box 10071. Rockville. MD 26942 corn or online at twassawy.omeb.com. This article is written and the book is received by the service of the service

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WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

Most Active	(\$1 or	MUDE)	84							Nasdaq			
			IVIOST	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)	Most	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)			
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Scudder Funds S: Devel 19.4
Putnam Funds A: GIGvA p 13.1

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Name	NAV	Chg.	YTD %Ret.
Fidelity Invest: GroInc	38.19	+.15	+9.8
Fidelity Invest: GroCo	55,64	+.10	+11.3
Amer Century Inv: Ultra	29.34	+.14	+10.1
Fidelity Spartan: Epidx	42.76	+.16	+10.5
Putnam Funds A: GrinA p	19.39	+.10	+10.9
Fidelity Invest: A Mor	16.17	+.03	+5.1
Frank/Temp Frnk A: SMCpGrA	33.84	+.09	+12.0
AIM Investments A: Const p	22.77	+.07	+5.9
Fidelity Invest: USBI	11.15		+4,4
Fidelity Invest: Ovrsea	34.61	+.12	+11.1
Fidelity Advisor T: GrOppT	30.48	+.10	+6.7
Fidelity Advisor T: EqInT	28.25	+.10	+11.6
Scudder Funds S: GroineS	21.84	+.10	+9.6
Putnam Funds A: GlbEqty p	8.32	+.03	+11.8
AIM Investments A: WeingA p	12.97	+.05	+7.4
AIM Investments A: ChartA p	12.80	+.04	+8.6
Merrill Lynch I: BalCap1	26.65	+.02	+8.0
Scudder Funds S: Intl FdS	43.84	+.09	+14.2
Fidelity Advisor T: OvrseaT	17.37	+.06	+10.4
Lord Abbett A: DevGtA p	15.72	+.04	+4.8
Scudder Funds S: Income S	12.98	01	+5.1
Merrill Lynch I: USGvtMtg	10.31	-	+3.2
Scudder Funds S: Devel	19.40	+.11	+3.0
Putnam Funds A: GlGvA p	13.11	-	+8.6

South Korean won (Dec. 23) ... Euro costs (Dec. 23) Dollar buys (Dec. 23) British pound (Dec. 23) Commercial rates Bahrain (Dinar) Bahrain (Di British nou ______0.377 ______\$1.9144 _______5.5568 ______6.2224 ____\$1.3381/0.7473 _______7.7812 ________183.25 Hong Kong (Dollar) Hungary (Forint)

EXCHANGE RATES

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Saudi Arabia (Gya) 1.357
Saudi Arabia (Gya) 1.357
South Korea (Won) 1.053.95
South Korea (Won) 1.053.95
Witzerland (Baht) 1.1522
Thailand (Baht) 1.388.89.90
Turkey (LIP3) 1.388.89.90 Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign control of the provided for reference when t

PRECIOUS METALS

INTEREST RATES

unt rate ral funds market rate nth bill 30-year bond ______ Sources: The Associated Press, Bar

Pents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Web sites for kids

BY NANCY DUNNAN

Kids.gov links to over 400 Web sites from government agencies to school and educational organizations, all geared to the learning level and interest of kids.

The site teaches kids about doing homework, picking a career, exploring outer space, creating an art project, taking care of a puppy. It also covers bus safety, traffic rules, riding a bike or moped. And, there are wonderful games, stories, puzzles and short animated movies

Financial adviser, economist and security analyst Nancy Dunnan is the author of "How to Invest \$50 to \$5,000." She writes a weekly column for theonlineinvestor.com







Officer suspended

VA VIRGINIA BEACH - A police officer arrested during an alleged drug buy has been suspended from the force

Jason Todd Armentrout 30, who is being held without bond in the city jail, was off-duty and not armed when he was taken into custody, police said

Don Rimer, a police spokesman, said Armentrout's arrest came after his name surfaced amid a much larger investigation. The probe by the department's Special Investigative Narcotics Unit began almost one year

Its target has been neonle involved in the possession, sale and distribution of illegal narcotics, specifically Ecstasy and methamphetamine, Rimer said.

Investigators saw Armentrout and other suspects and watched as they attempt to purchase Ecstasy. Rimer said. Armentrout is charged with attempted possession of a controlled substance.

Rare texts, books sold

OH COLUMBUS — A former employee of the Kenyon College library has pleaded guilty to selling 50 rare books and other documents from the school's collection for \$26,000

David Breithaupt now faces up two years in prison and a fine of as much as \$250,000, according to the U.S. attorney's office.

Breithaupt, 45, sold most of the items, many of which were more than 100 years old, on eBay to buyers in 19 other states and four foreign countries. The sales took place between 1998 and 2002. A copy made in 1528 of Ptole-

my's "Almagest," an astronomy text originally written in ancient Greece, fetched the highest price at \$4,750, court documents said. Several other items sold were from the 1500s and 1600s, Breithaupt has agreed to pay restitution for recovery of the items.

School can go co-ed

AUBURN - A judge has denied a request by two students at Wells College, an all women liberal arts school, for an iniunction to halt the institution's plan to allow men to enroll.

Acting State Supreme Court Justice Peter Corning said the main issue was the continued survival of the school. The lawsuit is challenging the coed decision on several grounds, including breach of con-

Ape comes home

CA SAN FRANCISCO 23-year-old ape from Buffalo, N.Y., has returned to the San Francisco Zoo, his boyhood home as the new king of Gorilla World.

In early January, he'll be liberat-ed from quarantine and become the exhibit's top dog, filling a va-cancy created in May when Kubi, its longtime patriarch, died. Since then, the four females have been left to their own devices. Anything, or nothing, could happen.

"They've been on their own without a male for a while," said gorilla keeper Mary Kerr. "They might have gotten the indepen dent gene and not want to be dominated anymore. We'll see when he comes over whether his animal magnetism overcomes their inde-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

pendent streak."

Hole forces evacuation

FI DELTONA — A sinkhole opened beneath a road in central Florida, swallowing four lanes of pavement and forcing the evacuation of 20 homes.

Officials had been watching the hole after noticing collapsed as-phalt on a street. Workers were pumping a cement mixture under the damaged road when the hole formed

"All of the sudden, they started feeling rumblings in the ground," said Robert Rogers, deputy chief of the fire department in Deltona. about 25 miles southwest of Daytona Beach.

The ground opened up, destroy-ing all four lanes. The hole grew to 50 feet deep and at least 150 feet wide.

The sinkhole also threatened to take down a major power line and forced authorities to evacuate 20 homes near the electrical wires.

Toy guns pulled

NY ALBANY — Thousands of toy guns have been pulled from the shelves of costume shops across the state as part of a settle-ment between the New York attorney general's office and two national wholesalers.

Attorney General Eliot Spitzer had accused the wholesalers of dis tributing more than 12,000 toy guns in 2001 in violation of a state law that previously applied only to



Making kids happy Salvation Army volunteer Barb

Reigelsperger of Naples, N.Y., tries to fit a few more toys on one of the tables as she sets up for a toy distribution. People who pre-registered could choose five gifts per child, as well as a pair of mittens and stocking-stuffer gifts.

retailers. Most of the wholesalers dealt with costume and novelty shops.

The state law bans realistic toy guns from being sold in stores unless they have permanent, usually inch-wide orange stripes running down both sides of the barrel.

Without admitting wrongdoing, Rubie's tumes Co. agreed to pay \$27,000 in civil penalties and costs and Franco American Novelty Co. agreed to pay \$10,000

Flight may be abuse

IN BLOOMINGTON — Some Indiana University students could face a hefty fine for tossing a guinea pig from a dormitory window with a makeshift parachute.

The students used a garbage bag, dental floss and masking tape to create a parachute and then dropped the animal, Bloomington Animal Shelter manager Leigh Ann Hoffacker said.

Fortunately, the guinea pig land-ed in a tree and survived. The trem-bling rodent was discovered moments later by freshman Laura Robinson

School janitors were able to reach the animal through a third-floor window and Robinson took it to the shelter

The identities of the students who tossed the guinea pig have yet to be determined, but Hoffacker said the list has been narrowed down by dorm administration.

Police likely would not do much, she said, but the shelter's animal control office can issue a \$500 ticket for animal abuse

Cocaine found in wreck

W WHEELING — Authorities called to the scene of a dead or alive — but they did find \$24 million worth of cocaine. Federal authorities were seeking the pilot, identified as Eugene N. Cobbs, on a charge of possession with intent to distribute cocaine. U.S. Attorney Thomas E. Johnston.

The Piper Aerostar twin-engine plane crashed in a wooded area near the Wheeling-Ohio County Airport, said James Peters, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration.

Authorities found about 327 pounds of cocaine packaged in blocks and another 193 pounds turned up in the plane's nose comnartment Johnston said Authorities were searching for a man believed to be Cobbs, who was picked up by a motorist near the airport's front entrance. His forehead was cut and he asked for a ride to a hote1

Couple pays town's bills

ANTHON — Home and busi-ness owners in this northwest Iowa town of 650 people were a little shocked at the Christmas gift they got from retired farmer Richard Hamann and his wife,

The Hamanns doled out \$25,000 to pay the town's electricity bills due on Dec. 25.

Hamann, 75, sees the gift as returning a good deed. Residents said they were sur-

prised and grateful. "I just thought it was great." said Beulah Sands, 64, a clerk at a local convenience store. "I haven't talked to anyone who didn't appreciate it. It was a wonderful thing for him to do."



Jessica Zampella. Massive reading assignment foreground, and other students at Central Elementary in Oxford, Miss., are sprawled out on the floor as they attempt to collectively read 12,000 pages.



On the way up

A skier takes a ride on the ski lift at Paoli Peaks in Paoli, Ind.



Zamboni explodes

White Christmas

Duluth, Minn., firefighters run hoses to battle a blaze at Peterson Arena in West Duluth after a Zamboni exploded inside the arena.



Jogger's best friends Lisa Schlimmer jogs with her dogs, Josie, left, and Lacey, at the city playfields in Pullman, Wash. Schlimmer is a student at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University.



Stacked for fire Heath Melancon, from Grand Point near Lutcher, La., trims the last logs on an 18-foot-high bonfire structure on the Mississippi River levee, that will be lit at 7 p.m. Christmas Eve.



A Christmas tree stands in the gazebo at Kershaw Park along Canandaigua Lake in Canandaigua, N.Y.

Letter finally sent

WI INDEPENDENCE — Jane Matchey recently became better acquainted with the late father she never met after receiving a letter he wrote six decades ago. When Sgt. Henry Longmier left

to fight in World War II, his new wife Teresa was pregnant with Jane, who was born about two months later.

But the 31-year-old soldier was killed by a German sniper in Belgium in the waning days of the Battle of the Bulge on Jan. 25, 1945. Prior to that, in late 1944, he and

three other soldiers lived in a Dutch village for a time in the home of the Neederlants family. It seems Longmier neglected to

mail the letter to his wife in Wisconsin. When the soldiers moved on, a Neederlants family member discovered the letter while cleaning the room they stayed in.

Only recently did the Neederlants' grandson, Lando Mulle-neers 38 become curious about its intended recipient, having heard stories of the soldiers.

5 arrested on Cape Cod

MA ORLEANS — Five people were arrested and more than \$1.6 million worth of iewelry. paintings and marine equipment was recovered on Cape Cod, authorities said. Police identified those arrested as George Upton. 52, his brother, Frank Upton, 41, and Mark Fornal, 41. Police said they found the paintings behind a fake wall and jewelry in a hollowed-out staircase in Frank Upton's home.

Rage cited in crash

FL LARGO — Two cars raced at least three miles locked in a deadly dance of road rage, police said

The Lexus pulled in front of the Volkswagen and slammed on the brakes. Then the Volkswagen did the same. The leapfrogging contin-ued until the Volkswagen smashed into a utility pole, fatally injuring the driver, Jacquelyn Palfy, 20. Two passengers in her car were ininned

The young man seen driving the Lexus drove away after the crash, police Sgt. Andy Hill said.

Santa Claus shot

CA OXNARD — Police were dispatched to the large Santa Claus statue here after shots were fired at it.

Officers found five bullet holes marring the jolly face of old St. Nick. Five 9 mm casings were lying on the street nearby, police said.

Mike Barber, Santa's caretaker, said the gunshots shattered the lenses on Santa's glasses and broke the frames. He and a friend used screws, glue and wire to patch the frames back together.

The 20-foot, nearly five-ton plaster Santa statue was moved in January 2003 from Santa Barbara County to the lot on Ventura Boulevard. The statue had stood for 50 years on top of a malt shop and candy store near Carpinteria.

Sole witness dies

MD BALTIMORE — The sole witness to the fatal shooting of a civilian police employee in 1974 has died of a heart attack, police said.

Police declined to name the witness and they insisted the death will not affect the prosecution of Michael Hughes, who had been a fugitive for 30 years before his arrest in Boston this fall.

The shooting occurred Christmas Eve 1974 and before the arrest ranked as one of the city's coldest cases. McKinley Johnson Jr. was distributing Christmas food baskets at a west Baltimore bar when he got into an argument with Hughes, police said. The alleged confrontation continued outside the bar where Johnson was shot.

Big garages for big cars

MESA — Now not only is keeping up with the Joneses a daily pressure, but it may become a law

The town of Gilbert is considering changing its zoning code to set a minimum interior garage size for homes in this southeast Phoenix

"We drive Suburbans, Excursions and Silverado extended cabs and they won't fit in small garages," said Planning and Zoning Commission chairwoman Peterson at a recent meeting on the proposed land development code.

When recommending the change, town staff told the commission that 74 percent of registered vehicles in Gilbert are trucks or sport utility vehicles.

The current code only requires two enclosed parking spaces and has no size minimum.

Aging center renamed

SALT LAKE CITY — The University of Utah is changing the name of its center that focuses on older Americans. The school's Gerontology Center will become the Center on Aging, a change the school says reflects increases in Utah's 65-and-older pop-

That group increased 27 percent in the last 10 years, and will rise another 28 percent in the next de-

Welfare caseloads drop

NJ TRENTON — Worker case-loads at the state's child welfare system have dropped by almost 10 percent since officials began working in July to reform the agency. However, officials said the caseloads still exceed the target set in the reform plan. The Division of Youth and Family Services has a troubled history that includes the deaths of some children and abuse of others who were supposed to be under supervision.

\$100K reward offered

MS JACKSON — An anonymous donor has posted a \$100,000 reward for information leading to murder charges in one of the most notorious crimes of the civil rights era - the "Freedom Summer" slayings of three civil rights workers in 1964.

The reward will be administered by an interfaith organization as the state renews efforts to bring charges in the killings of James Chaney. Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman.

In 1964, the three volunteers helping to register black voters were murdered on a lonely dirt road as they drove to a church to investigate a fire.

Stories and photos from wire services

第3種郵便物認可

Horoscope

Mars transits into Sagittarius. bringing a feeling of global unity well, maybe unity is a stretch. Perhaps we can only hope for awareness or even acknowledgment of our foreign sisters and brothers, but generous intentions are certainly in place. The realization is that we're not so different after all. It's a perfect transit for festive

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(December 25). There's simply no room for doubt this year in your personal life or your professional life Your sensational can-do attitude attracts only the most positive people to your team. A key financial move in the next six weeks sets off a series of events. An idea that's been researched, market tested and refined over a dozen times hits pay dirt in June.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

You have a rare case of nerves when you wake up this morning and may feel you've returned to childhood emotions connected with this day. Rest assured you'll rise to the occasion and deliver whatever is asked of you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

Your earth-sign super-stability is a comfort to everyone around you. You'll be the glue that keeps your group together. Music is the key to creating holiday memories. Tonight features some kind of hootenanny.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Any departure from the normal holiday rituals will bring luck and opportunity in the year ahead. So feel free to make this special day all your own. When you feel fabulously creative and unrestricted, there's more to share

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

You use your psychic sense to deliver gifts that go straight to the heart. Sweethearts need relaxed one-on-one time. If you have to sneak away from family in order to get this, go for it, and don't feel

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You've wisely figured out that holiday proceedings go better when you don't try to control them. This goes double for activities involving willful children or adults who act like them. Kisses under the mistletoe are featured.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Holiday Mathis

Though you have some trepidation there's nothing to worry about. Your sincere efforts to honor the special relationships in your

life bring joy. An exceptional match of style and practicality puts a shine

on all you do. LIBRA (Sept.

23-Oct. 23). You love a happy homecoming and will do everything in your power to make sure that

relatives are on their best hehavior, Along those lines, you're an expert at switching the conversation topic when necessary.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You know how to create multilevel

fun. Someone is intent on winning your heart with an expensive gift. Only you can manage to keep commitments loose on a structured day. Hot invitations are last minute

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When you take a detached look, there's something almost

humorous about the motley assemblage of merry well-wishers around you. The more eclectic your support group is, the more thoroughly you feel supported.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). Is it the lights, the music or the general sentimentality of the sea son? For whatever reason, you see the world through idealistic eyes a and why not for one day of the vear? Love is all around you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've got that overriding feeling that we're all in this together. Materi al gifts are the least valuable ones you'll exchange this year. Your sharing extends to stories, insights and loving acknowledgments.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Go slow, and savor togetherness. Rituals you attach to this day have more meaning than gifts exchanged. Lasting bonds are formed over shared activities. Let everyone contribute to the fun, and take plenty of pictures

Creators Syndicate

Peanuts





















































Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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Across

- 1 Java Sea locale 5 Catcher's aid
- 9 Satchel
- 12 Hebrew month
- 13 "The Music Man"
- site
- 14 Flightless bird 15 Roman historian
- 16 Put an end to
- 17 Healers' org.
- 18 Dnieper city 19 Bill
- 20 Ball in a gym? 21 Do surveillance
- 23 "- little teapot, ..."
- 25 Suitable 28 Scorching
- 32 Showed again
- 33 String quartet
- member
- 34 Puts forth 36 On the slate
- 37 Under the
- weather
- 38 Nevertheless
- 39 Asset
- 42 Richards or Reinking
- 44 Writer Ferber
- 48 Edge 49 Show off the
- muscles
- 50 Picture of health?
- 51 Intensify
- 53 Top-notch
- 54 "Undeniably" 12-25
- 52 Traditional tales

- 55 Singer Tori 56 Aerobics venues
- Down 1 "Loser" singer
- 2 lai follower
- 3 Troubadour's prop 5 Greenhouse

gadget

6 Small bit

7 Trivial

8 Spigot

10 Bullets

9 Tolerate

11 Agana's island

20 1984 Sam

Shenard

screenplay

22 Streisand title

role

24 Flick

- honoree 4 Cole Porter song
- 29 "Poppycock!" 30 - -de-France 31 Mid-June 35 Zigzag through

25 Opposite of

"post-"

27 Raw rock

26 Harrison or Reed

- gates 36 Bobcats
- 39 Ask for a really
- big favor? 40 Vitamin C source
- 41 Diamond
- experts?
- 43 Caligula's
- nephew
- 45 Get rid of 46 "Peter Pan"
- pooch
- 47 Favorable votes
- 49 Peninsula St.

Answer to Previous Puzzle												
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CRYPTOQUIP

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SPQUUHUV DЈ OQYI Q

OXD-FHDBN IGGJTD Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I DON'T LOVE THE RIVIERA REGION, ALTHOUGH I GUESS I'D GO THERE AS A LAST RESORT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals N

Forward

'Soulmate' not type to commit

Dear Abby: I'm a widow in my mid-60s - attractive, petite and active. I hate being alone. I have a friend I'll call Barney who is in his 70s. Barney's a wonderful dancer and a polished gentleman. We've known each other for 10 years.

About a year ago, our friendship evolved to the next level. We became intimate. I fell in love with Barney and thought I had finally found my soul mate.

Last month, I asked this wonderful man if he was looking for a committed relationship. Barney's answer shocked me. He said he didn't want to fall in love because he'd been hurt too many times. Then he told me he is also

in a relationship with someone else! I was devastated. I cried all the way home. Barney still calls every day and invites me out. When I hear his voice, I melt.

My best friend, "Bea," is having a 60th birthday party next

that Barney is coming and bringing his girlfriend! Abby, the only reason Bea invited Barney is that she and I both thought he'd bring me. I'd like to call him and ask him not to come and embarrass me. Or should I just stay home? I really need advice. - Heartsick

in San Francisco Dear Heartsick:

Your "soul mate" either suffers from a sensitivity deficiency, or he's trying to send you a message: "Don't count on him, because he has

a girlfriend." I sympathize with your disappointment, but don't let it stop you

from attending the arty. While you're there, get the lady's phone number and invite her for coffee. She might be interested to know how much the both of you have in common

Dear Abby: I am 14. My friend, "Heidi," is well-endowed. dad pulls on her shirt so he can look down it. He says he doesn't mean anything by it, but it makes Heidi really uncomfortable.

She has told her mom, but her mom just says he's not doing it on purpose, and ignores it. What should I do? Should I tell some-

one, or let her and her family settle it?

- Shocked in Fayetteville, N.C. Dear Shocked: By ignoring it, Heidi's mother is allowing it to continue. The first thing to do is tell your mother what's going on. Then urge your friend to speak to a trusted teacher or counselor at school about what her stepfather is doing. They are mandated to report it. Go with Heidi for moral support if necessary. Her safety depends on it, because the girl's stepfather's behavior is extremely inappropriate.

Letters for this column - with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 694 Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can wr to Abby on the Internet at

http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



INFURA CRIMET

Answer here:

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

WITH EVERYONE

HOME FOR THE

THEIR-

HOLIDAYS, MOM NO DAD ENJOYED

Yesterday's

Jumbles: Answer

(Answers Monday) ACRID RURAL NESTLE LATEST Where the loser ended up in the outdoor boxing match - UNDER THE "STARS"

A prayer for the Christmas season

Dear Readers:

Today is Christmas, and we hope those who are celebrating this holiday are fortunate enough to enjoy it with family and friends. Here is a prayer that was sent to us over the Internet.

We do not know who wrote it, but we think it expresses an appropriate sentiment for the season: A Christmas Prayer

Let us pray

That strength and courage abundant be given to all who work for a world of reason and understand-

ing. That the good that lies in each of our hearts may day by day be magnified That we will come to see more

clearly not that which divides us, but that which unites us. That each hour may bring us closer to a final victory, not of na-tion over nation, but of ourselves over our own evils and weakness-

. That the true spirit of this Christmas Season, its joy, its beauty, its hope, and above all, its abiding



Annie's Mailbox faith, may be among us.
That the blessings of eace be ours, the peace to build and grow, to live in harmony and sympa thy with others, and to plan for the future with

confidence. Dear Annie: You get so many stories about children who are

estranged from their parents or siblings who are cruel to one

another. Here's a nice change for you: When my husband and I had our 50th wedding anniversary, our four children asked us how we wanted to celebrate. I suggested they and their families come to our house and rebuild a shade garden structure that

termites had damaged So they came - all 18 of them. Tents were pitched in the backvard, and every room in the ouse had someone sleeping in

it. Not only was the structure rebuilt, but they also installed a new irrigation system. They washed windows, inside and out, scrubbed walls, dusted bookshelves, washed and rehun

curtains and vacuumed under the heavy furniture. Grandchildren pruned shrubbery and hauled trash. Even the garage got a good cleaning out. Our kids brought all the food, drinks and paper goods, and everyone took turns preparing meals and wash ing dishes.

I never heard one cross word

or complaint, even when the line to the bathrooms was four deep. At the end of their visit, everyone

wrote about the experience in a memory book which I cherish. If your readers want to do something really special for their parents, they might consider a "work day" similar to ours.

- Feeling Blessed in Whittier, Calif.

Dear Whittier: You and your husband must be wonderful people to have family members who love you so dearly. Congratu-

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Society of the Comment of the Comment 700, Los Angeles CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



"You come over and see what I got, then I'll go see what you got.



"HEV. SANTA I YOU FORGOT TO LEAVE THE

Sig



"Oh yeah? More like the three wise guvs. I'd say



Sunday Horoscope

Boxing Day! It's a stellar day for acknowledging the people in your life who make things easier on a daily basis. With the full moon in Cancer, insecurity runs rampant and grand gestures provide much-needed reassurance. Fortune befalls you when you re-**Holiday Mathis** member people with small

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 26). You're at the height of your popularity this year, being accepted for parts of yourself you used to hide. It's more fun to be completely honest anywayl The shifts in your financial sector through January make way for a new influx of work - probably something you'll need some training to accomplish. New love with Scor-

tokens of affection and big

pio or Gemini is passionate ARIES (March 21-April 19).

The stars appoint you the cruise director. So when family and friends come to you with blank eyes, begging to be led in the direction of fun be ready with suggestions. You'll be amazed how influential you are

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). What do you need from others in

order to feel safe and comfortable? The answers aren't on the tip of your tongue, but start talking anyway When you bounce ideas off the right person, the light bulb over your head tums on

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Recent events have enlightened you

but have not caused you to be jaded. It's brilliant how you're able to hold on to your innocent wonder even when you know that this magic act is all done with smoke and

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Emotional complexities vex others

- not you. You understand that not every problem is meant to be solved. Friends compete for you There's room for more than one number on your speed dial

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Relationships aren't exactly glassy smooth now. But if you have to swim through some muck to get to

love's lush island, you're willing to get a little dirty. True friendship and the promise of romance are worth the effort.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Just when you thought you could relax, the bell rings, signaling that

your break is over. Take comfort in the fact that the "work" you're doing is very much appreciated by you dear ones, and they'll tell

vou so, too LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct.

23). Your mind is proce ing multiple layers of meaning from all of your surroundings. You'll see many symbols around you and wonder what they are symbolizing. Maybe some-

thing, maybe nothing. It's up to you

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

You would feel terrible if you knew vour actions were really bothering someone. But the fact that this person isn't willing to speak up is your free pass. Consider bringing underlying tension out in the open

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There are numerous benefits to be had by taking part in doing absolutely nothing. You do nothing nassionately, almost actively, Doing

nothing with a friend is even more CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Whatever the interruption, you

turn it to your benefit. You'll be relieved when a responsibility is lifted or when a friend bails on you leaving you plenty of time to ponder the meaning of life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You were promised that something would come, but the exact nature of that something was left vague. In fact, you have no idea what to expect. The suspense may not be killing you, but it is making you a bit

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

You're a witness. You didn't mean to be or want to be, but now you are. What to do with your accidental knowledge is the guestion. Turning it into a secret and carrying it around is an option, but it will get awfully

Creators Syndicate

Sickum! He just doesn't get it!

Dear Editor: Years ago, my father-in-law used to say of his neighbor "he doesn't know sick-More recently, I've been hearing this expression in the "he doesn't know sickum twice." What on earth does this mean? Did it come from England, as did my father-in-law, or is it an American concoction? -H. L., Jackson, Mich.

Dear H.L.: The expression vou've heard is more often written as "doesn't know sic 'em." and it is in fact an Americanism. No one is sure exactly how old it is, but "sic 'em" in this context means "anything."

The expression derives from the command of attack given to dogs, which is a modification of pronunciation of "seek

(th)em" or "seek (h)im." (The command is 150 years old or more.) When people say that someone "doesn't know sic 'em,' they are in effect proclaiming that person to be as ignorant as a dog who doesn't recognize the command "sic 'em," or perhaps as shiftless and lazy as a dog who doesn't respond to the command. Including the word "twice" at the end of the saying merely serves to emphasize the meaning of the insult, indicating that the person is like a dog who doesn't understand the command even when given it

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Springfield, Mass. 01102.

Battered wife should report spouse's abuses to police

Dear Abby: A month ago, I celebrated my 10th wedding anniversary. My husband and I have been together for 12 years He didn't lay a hand on me until

a year ago We got into an argument on Valentine's Day, and he slapped me twice that night. It hapened again last month. We separated after the second incident, but I couldn't afford to move out because I've been a stay-at-home mom for

six years. Tonight we had a minor spat, and he broke my nose. An hour later, his 21-year-old girlfriend drove over and picked him up, and here my 7-year-old son and I sit, while he

not only gets sympathy, but also companionship and sex. Abby, please tell young women that getting involved with married men isn't just stupid: it's dangerous - and often to the woman he's married to when the

single woman comes into his life Bruised in St. Louis Dear Bruised: I'm broadcast. ing your message, but don't expect much response. Men who cheat on their wives are not above lying to their girlfriends. No doubt he has filled her head with what a terrible wife you are and how unhappy you have made him. That's the "lure" to snag her in the role of "rescuer Perhaps you should warn her so she doesn't become victim No.

Dear Abby

Since a picture is worth a thousand words, have some taken of you before your bruises heal. The police should also be contacted. and the battery put on record

> Dear Abby: My husband and I have one child, and we have decided that we are having no more. People frequently ask when we're having another child, and when we say, "Never!" they always

demand to know why When we tell them our reasons, they go on and on about how we shouldn't make our little girl an only child and how

"cruel" that would be to her What can we say to politely end everyone's incessant need to criticize us for not having more children? Do you agree that this is a rude question?

— Having Fun with One in N.Y.

DEAR HAVING FUN: I certainly do, because that question is often painful to answer. You might catch less flak if, instead of saying "Never!" you reply as my friend Sherry does. She says,

husband to have the second' That usually stops 'em.

Dear Abby: I think my sister has an eating disorder.

She's rail-thin and is always watching her calorie intake. My concern is that she does it with my 3-year-old nephew, too.

She has the child on a strict diet, counting his carb and calorie intake. Her little boy is still eating baby food (made for ages 6 to 9 months), and I'm afraid he will develop an eating disorder, too. What can I do? - Worried Aunt in Virginia

Dear Worried Aunt: Children have very different nutritional needs than adults, and your sister needs to be aware of what they are. Encourage your sister to consult her son's pediatrician about the eating program her child is on to assure he's getting the nutrients he needs for ontimum brain and body development. A session with a dietitian who's credentialed by the American Dietetic Association would also be a good idea. (They have "R.D." after their names.) Letters for this column - with your

name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby

Painful sibling rivalry is back for pair of middle-aged women

Dear Annie: My older sister and I have reverted to our childhood sibling rivalry with a ven-geance, and I don't know what to do about it.

We are both middle-aged women, so I cannot imagine why we haven't gotten past this. "Dotty" is a considerate and kind

person toward everyone she knows, except me. Her snide remarks, her unreasonable anger, and especially her negative comments about me to my husband, have made me distrust her. I feel me well. As a result, I have decided that I cannot have her in my life, even though I have no other family. Being around her is damaging

to my emotional health

Please help me understand why this has resurfaced in our lives at this late stage and whether I have any other way to resolve this problem other than to avoid her entirely.

— The Baby Sister Again

Dear Baby Sister: Obviously Dotty has some sibling issues that she has never worked through Chances are, she also has other problems in her life right now, and reverting to her childhood behavior is how she is dealing with them. Unless she is willing to seek counseling and understand her resentment, nothing will change

Before cutting the ties, give

you love her, but her negative attitude undermines the bond you share Ask if she will consider talking to a third party (perhaps a clergyperson, counselor or mutual friend), so you can work on the

problem together.

If she refuses, at least you will know you made the

Annie's Mailbox



Dear Annie: 1 am 24, and my dad passed away when I was 12. A few years ago, Mom remarried, but it ended in a friendly divorce. Mom isn't the most outgoing person, but she is great company once you get to know her. The problem is that my sisters and I have our

own lives and friends, and we feel guilty that Mom is

Mom is the only one of her friends who is single. Is there anything we can do to help her get out and meet some new peo

— Chicago Daughter Dear Daughter: First, make

sure your mom truly wants help. If she is indeed looking for company, encourage her to do volunteer work, join a choir or book club, take salsa lessons, work on a political campaign, When your mother meets people with similar interests, she can make new connections.

Dear Annie: I am 14 years old and read your column every day. The question I have does not concern me, but my friend "Emily." Emily is older by only a few months, and we are quite alike, except for one thing. Emily has a problem with perspiration under her arms.

This problem started about six months ago. Since then, it has caused her repeated embarrass ment, discomfort and even a few ruined shirts. She's tried what I would call everything, but it seems to make it worse. She's taken to wearing toilet paper under her arms to keep it under control, though it never stops.

I'm very concerned about Emily because she can hardly stand to go out anywhere. She's not living her life because of it. I'm hoping you can help

- Concerned Friend in the USA Dear Friend: Emily is suffering from hyperhidrosis, or excessive perspiration, and she needs to see a doctor for the appropriate treatment. Suggest that she talk to her parents and ask them to make an appointment. Emily is lucky to have a friend like you. Go ahead and reassure her that her social life is not over

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annies

Please e-main your questions to anni mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndic 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

OKINAWA TV (NHK. RBC. OTV AND OAB)

第3種郵便物認可

SAT, DEC. 25

Afternoon 1:00 Traditional Arts of Japan:

1:05 Japan Emperor's Cup Soc-cer: Semifinals (NHK) 3:20 Japan Junior High School Ekiden (marathon relay)(NHK Edu)
4:30 Between the Lions (NHK Edu)

12:00 "GO ..."
"GO" Tournamen ...
Edu)
12:15 Japan Senior High School
Boys' Ekiden (marathon
rlay)(NHK) Evening 7:00 News (NHK) 12:25 NBA Magaz ring (NHK)

riay/(NHK)
Evening
7:00 News (NHK)
9:00 Classical Music: NHK Symphony Orchestra —
Beethoven's Overture to
"Egmont"/Berlioz's "La carnival romain" (NHK Edu) 1:00 E.R. VIII (NHK) 3:56 Classical Music (NHK) SUN, DEC. 26

9:00 U.S. Movie (1996): The Glim-mer Man (1:54)(QAB) 3:27 Classical Music (NHK)(r) Morning 10:00 "Shogi" Lesson/NHK Tro-phy "Shogi" Tournament (NHK Edu) 10:05 Japan Senior High School Girls' Ekiden (marathon relay)(NHK) MON, DEC. 27

7:00 News (NHK 7:00 News (NHK) 10:00 News (NHK) 11:30 U.S. Movie (2001): Spy Game (1:55)(RBC) 1:20 French Drama: Fabio Mon-tale: Total Kheops (NHK)

ure to Morning "La car- 10:35 "Kar '5 "Kariyushi" Okinawan Mu-sical (RBC)

TUE, DEC. 28

ening

Evening 6:30 News (RBC) 7:00 NHK News (NHK) 7:30 What I Like About You (NHK Edu) 10:00 News (NHK) 11:21 U.S.-British Movie (1997): Sliding Doors (1:55)(RBC) 1:20 French Drams: Fablo Mon-tale: Chourmo (NHK)

Afternoon 3:00 Australian Movie (1995): Shine (2:05)(QAB) 4:55 Kyushu Senior High School Volleyball Tournament (RBC)

WED, DEC. 29

10:10 2004 Japanese Major Leaguers (8): Ichiro (2)(r) 11:15 CNN News

9:15 Economic News 11:15 NFL: Philadelphia Eagles

4:15 World News 5:15 Asian News

vs. St. Louis Rams 2:15 Asian News 3:20 X-Games (r) 3:50 World Amazing Sp 4:15 Asian News

4:15 Asian News 5:15 World News

Evening 6:15 CNN News

3:30 U.S. Movie (1991): Hudson Hawk (1:55)(OAR) 4:30 Figure Skating GP in China: Singles & Pairs — Finals (NHK)

Evening 6:30 News (RBC) 7:00 News (NHK)

Afternoon 1:20 Overseas Drama: Kajsas KO (NHK Edu) 5:00 The 20th Naha Marathon Highlights (RBC) 7:00 News (NHK) 7:25 Simple Rules (NHK Edu) 11:45 U.S. Movie (2001): Mon-ster's Ball (2:00)(RBC) 1:05 French Drama: Fabio Mon-tale: Solea (NHK) 3:35 Classical Music (NHK)(r)

Highlights (RBC)

Evening
6:05 Grand Sumo 2004 Highights (NHK)
6:30 News (RBC)
7:00 News (NHK)
9:00 2004 Atthens Olympics Highights (NHK Edukr)
11:45 U.S. Movie (1979): Being There (1:55) (RBC)
1:20 Classical Music: NHK Sym-THU, DEC. 30

phony Orchestra Beethoven's Sympho No.9 in D Minor "Chor nductor: Krzysztol recki)(NHK) en the Lions (NHK 1:20 U.S. Movie (2002): Bowlin for Columbine (2:15)(OTV

FRI, DEC. 31 Morning

7:20 Grand Sumo 2004 High-lights (NHK)(r) 9:00 Overseas Drama: The Phoe-Overseas Drama: The Phoe-nix and the Carpet (NHK Edu)(r)

...\(\alpha\) and the Carpet (NHK Edu)(r)
10:20 New Year Japan industrial League Ekiden (marathon relay) preview (RBC)
Afternoon
1:45 Japan Senior High School
3:05 2004 Sports Highlights (HHK)(r)
4:30 RBC Sports Awards 2004
5:31 News (rpc)

3:10 2004 Japanese Major Leagu-ers (8): Ichiro (r)

JAPAN TV (BS7/NHK SATELLITE) (BILINGUAL AND SPORTS)

9:10 World News 10:10 World Repo 11:10 History of FIFA (r) 11:40 CNN News

Afternoon 12:10 World Horse Racing 3:10 2004 Gymnastics World Cup Final 5:10 Emperor's Cup Soccer Tour-nament: Semifinal No. 1

Evening Evening
7:10 Emperor's Cup Soccer Tour-nament: Semifinal No. 2
9:10 Weekly NFL
12:10 CNN News
12:20 Sports & Encore Hour
1:10 NBA: Minnesota Timber-wolves vs. San Antonio

3:35 Amazing Sports 4:10 What's On Japan 5:00 PGA Golf 5:40 Football Mundial

SAT, DEC. 25 SUN, DEC. 26 MON, DEC. 27

Afternoon 12:00 "Go" Lesson/NHK Trophy "Go" Tournament (NHK

Morning 6:10 Figure Skating GP Series in China: Final: Ice Danc-ing/Women's Singles 8:10 World News 9:10 What's On Japan (r) 11:50 CNN News Afternoon 5:10 X-Games 5:50 CNN News

Evening
7:10 Figure Skating GP Series in
China: GP Final (1): Women's Singles (r)
8:10 Figure Skating GP Series in
China: GP Final (1): Ice

Dancing (r)
9:10 BS Documentary: Terror-ism in the World ism in the World
12:10 CNN News
1:10 World Horse Racing (r)
2:10 Sports & Encore Hour
3:10 X-Games lway Adventures across 4:10 R

2004 10:10 2004 Japanese Maj Leaguers (8): Ichiro (1)(r) 11:15 CNN News

4:15 World Ne 5:15 Asian Ne

Evening 6:15 CNN News

Afternoon 12:15 What's on Asia (r) 12:40 Weekly NFL 2:15 ABC News

TUE, DEC. 28

9:15 Economic News 11:15 NFL: Denver Broncos vs. Tennessee Titans 2:15 Asian News 3:20 X-Games 3:50 World Amazing Sports 4:15 Acian News WED. DEC. 29

Morning
6:10 Athens Olympics Best Selections: Swimming/Judo
8:10 Athens Olympics Best Selections: Gymnastics
9:10 Athens Olympics Best Selections: Synchronized

Swimming 10:10 Athens Olympics Best Se-

thon 11:15 CNN News Afternoon 3:10 CNN News

Evening 9:10 2004 PGA Tour Highlights 11:50 CNN News 12:10 NBA: Toronto Raptors vs. Los Angeles Lakers 2:10 2004 BS Documentary Best Selections

THU, DEC. 30

Morning 5:10 Athens Olympics Best Se lostions: Wrestling/Base

8:10 Athens Olympics Best Se lections: Track and Field lections: Track and Field 9:10 Athens Olympics Best Se-lections: Rhythmic Sportive Gymnastics 10:10 Athens Olympics Best Se-lections: Men's Marathon 11:15 CNN News Evening

Evening 6:10 BS Documentary: Best Se

r:10 BS Documentary: Best Se lections: Suicide Bombing 7:10 BS Documentary: Best Se lections: Children in Iraq

lections: Women's Mara- 8:10 BS Documentary: Best Se-thon lections: The Wall in Pales-

cy in Europe 5:10 BS Documentary: Powerful Tornado

lections: Ine Wall in PalesJohn Stockholm St cer a nasty and U.S. (2/2)
4:10 BS Documentary: Diplomacy in Europe 10:10 BS Documentary: Returned Soldiers from Iraq 11:50 CNN

FRI, DEC. 31 SAT, JAN. 1

Morning 7:10 2004 PGA Tour Highlights 11:10 2004 Japanese Major Leaguers (2): Hideo Nomo/Japanese Major Leaguers (3): Tomokazu Ohka (r) 12:10 Figure Skating GP Series Highlights: Skating in U.S. 2:10 Figure Skating GP Series Highlights: Skating in Cana-Offica (1)
Afternoon
1:10 2004 Japanese Major Leaguers (6): Shingo Takatsu/Japanese Major Leaguers (7):

Evening 7:10 Emperor's Cup Soccer Tour-nament: Final ers (o): Simingo Takatsu/Jap-anese Major Leaguers (7): Akinori Otsuka (r) 2:10 2004 Japanese Major Leagu-ers (1): Hideki Matsui (r)

5:40 Football Mundia JAPAN TV (BS11/NHK SATELLITE) (BILINGUAL, SPORTS, MOVIES AND MUSIC) 11:00 Aerobics 7:00 NHK News

3:00

7:00 NHK Nows

MON, DEC. 27

SAT, DEC. 25

1:10 U.S. Movie (1996): The First Wives Club (1:45)

SUN, DEC. 26

Morning

WOWOW

SAT, DEC. 25

Morning 9:00 TV Series: CSI: Crime Scene Investigation — Miami 2 10:30 U.S. Movie (1947): Miracle on 34th Street (1:40)

Afternoon 4:00 UEFA Euro 2004 Soccer: Por-tugal vs. England

Evening 8:00 U.S. Movie (2002): My Big Fat Greek Wedding (1:40) 9:40 TV Series: My Big Fat Life

9:40 IV Serres, my ong ong ...
No. 1
10:10 U.S. Movie (2002):
Trapped (1:47)
2:15 TV Series: Sex and the City
3:25 TV Series: Sex and the City
3:25 TV Series: Sex and the City
0:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Austin
Powers in Goldmember

SUN, DEC. 26

Morning 6:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Harry

2:40 Swedish Swedish Movie (1993): Lotta Leaves Home (1:25)

TUE, DEC. 28

Lotta Pa Brakmakargatai (1:20)

Evening 7:00 NHK Nows

8:00 U.S. Movie (1985): Pale Rider (2:00)

12:45 U.S. Movie (1964): Chey-enne Autumn (2:40) arr Jornson (1:54) U.S. Movie (1961): The engly Companions (1:36)

3:00 Inside the Actor's Studio: Pearce Brosnan Evening

WED, DEC. 29 THU, DEC. 30

7:55 U.S. Movie (1990): The Rook-le (2:05) 12:30 U.S. Movie (1972): Jeremi-ah Johnson (1:54)

FRI, DEC. 31

7:00 NHK News Afternoon 1:00 Classical Music: Berlin Phil-harmonic Orchestra Silver-star Concert 2004 (conduc-tor: Simon Rattle) 2:30 U.S. Movie (2000): Geppetto

12:30 U.S. Movie (1976): The Out-law Josey Wales (2:20) SAT. JAN. 1

3:03 U.S. Movie (1964): My Fair

12:50 British Drama: Hornblow-er (1)(r) 2:35 Ray Charles Forever (r)

3:40 Hong Kong Movie (2002): In fernal Affairs (1:45)

Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (2:50) 9:00 U.S. Movie (2002): The Wild Thornberrys Movie (1:30) 10:30 U.S. Movie (2001): Spy

Kids (1:30) Afternoon 12:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Swept Away (1:30) 1:30 U.S. Movie (1999): Random Hearts (2:15) 4:00 UEFA Euro 2004 Soccer: Quarterlinal: France vs. Greece

Evening 6:10 U.S. Movie (2002): Solaris 6:10 U.S. Movie (2002): Solaris (1:47) 11:20 Pro Boxing: 2004 Best Fight Highlights 1:20 Hong Kong Movie (2000): in the Mood for Love (1:40) 3:00 TV Series: Sex and the City 4:10 TV Series: Sex and the City 4:40 TV Series: Sex and the City 4:45 U.S. Movie (2002): Blood Work (1:55)

MON, DEC. 27

Morning 6:40 U.S. Movie (2002): Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron Stallion of the Cimarron (1:30) Morning 11:30 U.S. Movie (2002): Maid in Manhattan (1:50) Morning 11:30 U.S. Movie (1997): My Best Friend's Wedding (1:50)

Manhattan (1.100, Afternoon 1:20 U.S. Movie (2003): The Hunt-ed (1:40) 3:00 UEFA Euro 2004 Soccer: Ouarterfinal: Sweden vs.

Holland Evening 5:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Star Trek: Nemesis (2:00) 10:00 U.S. Movie (2003): Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (1:57) 12:00 British Movie (1996): Train-spotting (1:40) 13:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Chicago (2:00) 3:40 TV Series: Sex and the City

4:15 TV Series: Sex and the City 4:50 TV Series: Sex and the City French-Polish-German Movie (2002): The Planist (2:30)

Afternoon
1:20 U.S. Movie (2002): Red Drag-on (2:10)
3:30 UEFA Euro 2004 Soccer: Quarterfinal: Czech vs. Den-

Evening 6:00 U.S. Movie (2003): Daredev-

| 620 U.S. Movie (2003): Daredev-| 10.57) | 630 U.S. Movie (2003): 2 Fast 2 | 800 U.S. Movie (2003): 2 Fast 2 | 800 U.S. Movie (2003): Pirates | 950 U.S. Movie (200

12:20 French Movie (1996):
Ponette (1:40)
2:00 British-U.S. Movie (2002):
Die Another Day (2:15)
4:15 TV Series: Sex and the City
4:50 TV Series: Sex and the City
5:20 TV Series: Sex and the City

Morning 6:00 U.S. Movie (2002): 8 Mile (1:57) 11:30 U.S. Movie (2002): A Walk to Remember (1:50) to Remenue: A.S.,
Afternoon
1:20 U.S. Movie (2002): The
Bourne Identity (2:10)
3:30 UEFA Euro 2004 Soccer:
Semifinal: Portugal vs. Hol-

land 5:40 U.S. Movie (2003): X2 (2:17)

Dead (1:40) 4:00 TV Series: Sex and the City 4:35 TV Series: Sex and the City 5:05 TV Series: Sex and the City

THU. DEC. 30

TUE, DEC 28 WED, DEC. 29 Morning 6:00 U.S. Movie (2002): The Hours (1:57) 11:40 U.S. Movie (2002): Sweet Home Alabama (1:50)

Home Alabania (2007)
Afternoon
1:30 U.S. Movie (2002): Trapped (1:50)
3:30 UEFA Euro 2004 Soccer: Semifinal: Greece vs. Czech Semifina: Green Evening 6:00 U.S. Movie (2003): Termina-tor 3; Rise of the Machines

tor 3; Rise of the Machines (1:52) 8:00 U.S. Movie (2003): Beyond Borders (2:10) 3:20 TV Series: Sex and the City 3:55 TV Series: Sex and the City 4:30 TV Series: Sex and the City 5:05 TV Series: Sex and the City

FRI, DEC. 31

Morning 6:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Catch Me If You Can (2:25) 11:40 U.S. Movie (2002): My Big Fat Greek Wedding (1:40) Afternoon 1:20 U.S. Movie (2003): Dream-catcher (2:20)

fernal Affairs (1:45) Evening 6:20 U.S. Movie (2002): Minority Report (2:27) 9:00 UEFA Euro 2004 Soccer: Final: Portugal vs. Greece 3:00 TV Series: Sex and the City 4:00 U.S. Movie (1984): Ghost-busters (1:50)

SAT, JAN. 1 Morning 6:00 U.S. Movie (1989): Ghost-busters II (1:50) 7:50 U.S. Movie (1947): Gentle-man's Agreement (2:05) Afternoon 2:05 U.S. Movie (1959): Ben-Hur (3:35)

(3:35) 5:40 U.S. Movie (1992): A League of Their Own (2:10) of Their Own (2:10)
Evening
8:00 U.S.-New Zealand Movie
(2003): The Lord of the
Rings: The Return of the
King (3:25)
4:40 U.S. Movie (1960): The
Apartment (2:10)

10:30 World Selection 11:00 All the Best of MTV 2004 No. 17-No. 18

Afternoon 12:00 All the Best of MTV 2004 — Ashlee Simpson

2004 — Ashlee Simpson No. 7-No. 8 1:00 All the Best of MTV 2004 — Pimp My Ride No. 7-No. 8 2:00 All the Best of MTV 2004 Punk'd No. 7-No. 8

MTV

SAT, DEC. 25

Afternoon 12:00 Check the Rhyme 12:00 Top Choice 1:00 World Chart Express 1:00 World Chart Express SUN, DEC. 26

Supported by Honda 3:00 Pimp My Ride 3:30 Top Choice 4:00 i-Catch Christmas Spe-Evening 6:00 Making the Video: Out-

Revolution Tour, Linkin Park, etc. 10:00 Cool Christmas 2004 11:00 U.S. Top 20 with Supe Dry 1:00 Plmp My Ride 1:30 Check the Rhym 2:00 Top Choice 2:30 Rock On 3:00 After Hours

Morning 6:00 Wake Up! 8:00 Cribs: Jackass Edition 8:30 Making the Video: Out-9:00 Rock On 9:30 Screen 10:00 Rocks 11:00 YATAI

Evening 6:00 World Chart Express Supported by Honda 8:00 U.S. Top 20 with Super

Dry 10:00 Summer Sonic Part 2 3:00 Inside Track Concert 4:00 Classic '90s 5:00 After Hours MON. DEC. 27

Morning 6:00 Wake Up! 7:00 M Size Friday 8:00 Top Choice 10:00 Pure Music 10:30 Classic 11:00 All the Best of MTV 2004 No. 11-No. 12

Story 5:00 Star Tour Live: The Final Call

Evening 6:00 M Size Monday 7:00 U.S. Top 20 with Super 9:00 Video Music Awards: Latin America 2004 10:00 Rocks 11:00 EMA 10 of the Best Performance 12:00 Classic '90s 1:00 M Size Monday 2:00 Top Choice 2:30 Check the Rhyme 3:00 After Hours

6:00 Wake Up! 6:00 Wake Op: 7:00 M Size Monday 8:00 Top Choice 10:00 Pure Music 10:30 Classic 11:00 All the Best of MTV 2004 No. 13-No. 14

Afternoon 12:00 All the Best of MTV 2004 — Ashlee Simpson 12:00 All the Best of MTV 2004 – Ashlee Simpson No. 3-No. 4 1:00 All the Best of MTV 2004 – Pimp My Ride No. 3-No. 4 2:00 All the Best of MTV 2004 Punk'd No. 3-No. 4 3:00 Movie Awards 2004

3:00 Movie Awards 2004 Evening 6:00 M Size Tuesday 7:00 World Chart Express Powered by Honda 9:00 Teppel's Diary in Hollywood 9:30 VMA Miami Style: Rena & Maria 10:00 YATAI 11:00 World Selection

11:30 Pure Music 12:00 Top Choice 12:30 Consensus: Ashantee 1:00 M Size Tuesday 2:00 Top Choice 2:30 Classic 3:00 After Hours

WED, DEC. 29

10:00 Pure Music 11:00 All the Best of MTV 2004 No. 15-No. 16

Evening 6:00 M Size Wednesday 7:00 Video Music Awards: Latin America 2004 8:00 buzzASIA Concert in

8.00 buzz4SiA Concert in 9:00 We Are the Future Con-cert Alicia Keys, etc. 10:00 Making the Video: Asher 10:30 Check the Rhyme 11:30 Top Choice 11:30 Fure Music 11:30 Top Choice 2:30 Rock On 2:30 Rock On 2:30 Cassic 3:00 After Hours

THU, DEC. 30 6:00 Wake Up! 7:00 M Size Wed 8:00 Top Choice 10:00 Pure Music

8:00 Pimp My Ride 8:30 Asia Awards 2004 10:00 Pimp My Ride My Ride nsus: Ashanti 10:30 Consensus 11:00 Screen 11:30 Pure Music 12:00 U.S. Top 20 with Super Dry 2:00 M Size Thursday 3:00 Screen 3:30 After Hours

3-00 E

2004

JAPAN TV (BILINGUAL, SPORTS, MOVIES AND MUSIC)

SAT, DEC. 25

Morning 10:30 Japan Senior High School Soc-

Afternoon 1:00 Traditional Arts of Japan: Dance 1300 Fraditional arts of Japan: Dartice (3)(r) 1:05 Japan Emperor's Cup Soccer: Semifinals (1) 2:00 Korean Movie (2001): My Sassy Girl (2:25)(4) 3:20 Japan Junior High School Ekiden (marathon relay)(3) 4:30 Between the Lions (3)

Evening 6:30 Japan Rugby: IBM vs. World (42) 7:00 News (1) 8:10 Japan Rugby: Kubota vs. Ricoh

) BA Magazine (1) 1:00 E.R. VIII (1) 1:15 Golf: 2004 British Open/U.S. Open Highlights (10) 1:55 U.S. Movie (1999); Election

1:55 U.S. Movie (1952). Electron. (2:08) NFL: Colls vs. Ravens (4) 3:15 Soccer: FA Cup Opening Game Special (8) 3:20 Hong Kong Movie (2003): Inner Senses (1:40)(12) 3:56 Classical Music (1)(r)

SUN. DEC. 26

Morning 10:00 "Snogl" Lesson/NHK Trophy "Shogl" Tournament (3) 10:05 Japan Senior High School Girls' Ekiden (marathon relay)(1)

Af Ekiden (maratnon resay/s.) Afternoon 12:00 "Go" Lesson/NHK Trophy "Go" Tournament (3) 12:15 Japan Senior High School Boys' Ekiden (marathon relay)(1)

4:00 Japan Figure Skating Champion-4:00 Japan rigure 5:5:5:5 ships (8) 5:30 Auto Racing: 2004 Japan GT Championship Highlights (12)

Championship Highlights (12) Evening 7:00 News (1) 8:55 PGA Tour: 2004 KLM Open High-lights (42) 9:00 Classical Music: NHK Symphony Classical Music: NHK Symphony 1:30 U.S. Movie (1976): King Kong (2:00)(12)

(2300/LIZ)
Evening
6:30 News (6)
7:00 NHK News (1)
7:30 What I Like About You (3)
10:00 News (1)
1:20 French Drama: Fablo Montale:
Chuourmo (1)

9-00 Člassical Music: NHK Symphony Orchestra — Beethoven's Over-ture to "Egmont" /Berlioz's "La carrival romain" (MHK Gime) Man (1:54)(10) 11:30 Friends (42) 12:15 Ultimate Fighting: K-1 Dynamite New Years Eve Preview (6) 155 U.S. Movie (2001); Valentine (2:01)(6)

(2:01)(6) U.S. Movie (1999): Bowfinger (12)(r)(ends)
1:30 U.S. Movie (1986): The Golden Child (2:00)(12)
4:30 Figure Skating GP in China: Singles & Pairs — Finals (1) (1:35)(4) 3:27 Classical Music (1)(r) MON, DEC. 27

Evening 6:00 News (6) 7:00 NHK New 7:25 Store Afternoon
12:30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation
(12)(r)
1:30 U.S. Movie (1997): The Second
Jungle Book: Mowgil & Baloo
(2:00)(12)

WED. DEC. 29

TUE, DEC. 28

Crime Scene Investigation

10 NHZ AVY 10 NHZ AVY 11 NHZ AVY 10 NHZ AVY 10 O America's Top 40 (42) 15 French Drama: Fabio Montale: Solea (1) 10 Yomilur! Symphony House: Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in D Minor 'Chyra'l (4) 10 Stativick (222)(5) 15 Japan Speedskating Champion-ships: Sprint Champion-ships: Sprint Champion-1:59 2:55 Japan

ships: Sprint (8) 3:35 Classical Music (1)(r)

THU, DEC. 30

6:45 Between the Lions (3) 8:00 Disney (12)

Afternoon
1:20 Overseas Drama: Kajsas Ko (3)
1:30 Golf: Big Four Players — Tiger
Woods, Annika Sorenstam, etc.
(12)
5:00 Tokus Days

00 Tokyo Bay Super Cup Soccer (42) Evening 6:05 Grand Sumo 2004 Highlights (1) 6:30 News (6) 7:00 NHK News (1) 7:00 NHK News (1) 9:00 2004 Athens Olympics Highlights

FRI. DEC. 31

Morning 7:20 Grand Sumo 2004 Highlights

(1)(r) 7:30 Disney (12) 9:00 Overseas Drama: The Phoenix and the Carpet (3) 10:20 New Year Japan Industrial League Ekiden (marathon relay) preview (6) preview (6) 11:35 Japan Senior High School Boys' Soccer (42)

Soccer (42)
Afternoon
1:05 2004 Sports Highlights (1)(r)
1:45 Japan Senfor High School Boys'
Soccer (4)
3:00 Ultimate Fighting: K-1 Dynamite
Preview (6)
5:50 News (6)
Evening

6:00 Ultimate Fighting: PRIDE New Year's Eve Special (8) 7:00 NHK News (1) 7:00 Classical Music: NHK Symphony Orchestra — Beethoven's Sym phony No. 9 in D Minor "Choral (conductor: Krzysztof Penderec kh(3)(7) (conductor: Krzysztof Pend ki)(3)(r) 7:40 2004 America's Top 100 (42) 9:00 Ultimate Fighting: K-1 Dyni

11:30 Classical Music: Silberstar Con 2:30 Japan Senior High School Boys Soccer Highlights (4)

SAT, JAN. 1

Morning 8:30 New Year Japan Industri League Relay)(6)

Afternoon 12:00 Golf: Canadian Skins Game (42) 1:20 Japan Emperor's Cup Soccer: Japan Final (1 4:05 French Movie (2001): Sous le Sable (1:45)(42) Evening 6:00 News (6)

Everung (6) 700 News (1) 700 News (1) 700 News (1) 700 News (1) 700 Trans World Sports (42) 700 Trans World Sports (42) 700 Trans World Sports (1) 700 Trans World Sports (1) 700 New Year Concert at Vienna Festival Hall 1000 Overseas Drama: Shackleton (1 of 2)(3)(7) 700 News (10) Years (42) Ye

12:30 AFI's 100 Years (42) 1:20 U.S. Movie (1999): Three Kings (2:22)(6) 1:30 U.S. Movie (1944): Cover Girl (1:55)(12) 9:30 Screen 2:25 U.S. Movie (2001): Ali (4) 10:00 Rocks 3:30 U.S. Movie (1946): Gilda (2:00)(12) 11:00 YATAI

MTV

SAT, DEC. 25

Morning 6:00 Wake Up! 8:00 Classic '90s 9:00 Top Choice 10:00 Pure Music 11:00 Top Choice: Afternoon

11:00 top Choice: murmur Afternoon 12:00 Check the Rhyme 12:30 Top Choice 1:00 World Chart Express Supported by Honda 3:00 Pimp My Rida 3:30 Top Choice 4:00 F-Catch Christmas Special

400 I-Catch Christmas Special
Evening
Evening
600 Mail-Gristmas Video: OutKast
700 Consensus: Ashantee
7100 Consensus: As

SUN, DEC. 26

Morning 6:00 Wake Up! 8:00 Cribs: Jackass Edition 8:30 Making the Video: OutKast 9:00 Rock On 9:30 Screen

WOWOW

SAT, DEC. 25

Morning 9:00 TV Series: CSI: Crime Scene Inves-

tigation – Miami 2 10:30 U.S. Movie (1947): Miracle on 34th Street (1:40) Afternoon 4:00 UEFA Euro 2004 Soccer: Portugal

Evening 8:00 U.S. Movie (2002): My Big Fat Greek Wedding (1:40) 9:40 TV Series: My Big Fat Life No. 1 10:10 U.S. Movie (2002): Trappe (1:47) 10:10 U.S. Movie (2002). The (1:47) 2:15 TV Series: Sex and the City 2:50 TV Series: Sex and the City 3:25 TV Series: Sex and the City 4:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Austin Po in Goldmember (1:40)

SUN, DEC. 26

Morning 6:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets 9:00 U.S. Movie (2002): The Wild Thorn-berrys Movie (1:30)

10:00 News (1) 10:00 Nikita (42) 12:20 French Drama: Fabio Montale: Total Kheops (1) 1:59 U.S. Movie (2001): Jeepers Creepers (1:55)(6)

Evening 6:00 News (6)

Evening ### Ev

MON, DEC. 27

10:30 U.S. Movie (2001): Spy Kids 3:00 UEFA Euro 2004 Soccer: Quarterfi-nal: Sweden vs. Holland 9:50 U.S. Movie (2003): Pirates of the Caribbean; The Curse of the

1:40 U.S. MoVie (2002): Cinicago 3:40 TV Series: Sex and the City 4:50 TV Series: Sex and the City 4:50 TV Series: Sex and the City 5:30 Fench-Polish-German (2002): The Planist (2:30)

TUE. DEC 28

Morning 11:30 U.S. Movie (1997): My Best Friend's Wedding (1:50)

Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2:30) 12:20 French Movie (1996): Ponette

WED. DEC. 29

11:30 U.S. Movie (2002): A Walk to Re member (1:50)

Afternoon Afternoon
1:20 U.S. Movie (2002): The Bourne
Identity (2:10)
3:30 UEFA Euro 2004 Soccer: Semifinal: Portugal vs. Holland 5:40 U.S. Movie (2003): X2 (2:17)

6-09 U.S. Moyele (2002): Spirit: Stallion 3:30 UEFA Euro 304 Socceet Quarterfit 130 U.S. Moyele (2002): More Lower 15 of U.S. Moyele (2002): A League of Their Own 15 of U.S. Moyele (2002): A League of Their Own 15 of U.S. Moyele (2002): A League of Their Own 15 of U.S. Moyele (2002): A League of Their Own 15 of U.S. Moyele (2002): A League of Their Own 15 of U.S. Moyele (2002): A League of Their Own 15 of U.S. Moyele (2002): A League of Their Own 15 of U.S. Moyele (2002): A League of Their Own 15 of U.S. Moyele (2002): A League of Their Own 15 of U.S. Moyele (2002): Catch Meriting 15 of U.S. Moyele (2002): A League of U.S. Moyele (2002): Darkewill (150) U.S. Moyele (2002): Catch Meriting 15 of U.S. Moyele (2002): Catch Merit

Alabama ernoon Atternoon 1:30 U.S. Movie (2002): Trapped (1:50) 3:30 UEFA Euro 2004 Soccer: Semifi-nal: Greece vs. Czech

3:30 UEFA Euro 2004 Soccér: Semifi-nal: Greece vs. Czech Evening 6:00 U.S. Movie (2003): Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (1:52) 8:00 U.S. Movie (2003): Beyond Bor-ders (2:10) 3:20 TV Series: Sex and the City 3:55 TV Series: Sex and the City 4:30 TV Series: Sex and the City 5:05 TV Series: Sex and the City

4:00 TV Series: Sex and the City 4:35 TV Series: Sex and the City 5:05 TV Series: Sex and the City

THU. DEC. 30

Morning 6:00 U.S. Movie (2002): The Hours

ATIBITS (1.4-42)
Evening
6:20 U.S. Movie (2002): Minority Report (2:27)
9:00 UEFA Euro 2004 Soccer: Final: Portugal vs. Greece
3:00 TV Series: Sex and the City
4:00 U.S. Movie (1984): Ghostbusters (1:50) 6:00 U.S. Movie (2002): The Hours (1:57) 11:40 U.S. Movie (2002): Sweet Home Alabama (1:50)

SAT, JAN. 1 Morning 6:00 U.S. Movie (1989): Ghostbusters

Afternoon 1:20 U.S. Movie (2003): Dreamcatcher (2:20) 3:40 Hong Kong Movie (2002): Infernal Affairs (1:45)

6:00 U.S. Movie (1947): Gentleman's Agreement (2:05)

8:10 BS Documentary: Saudi Dynasty and U.S. (1/2)

JAPAN TV (BS7/NHK SATELLITE) (BILINGUAL AND SPORTS) 11:50 CNn ... Afternoon 5:10 X-Games 5:50 CNN News Evening 7:10 Figure Skating GP Series in Cloud Final (1): Women's Sin-eles (1) Skating GP Series in Skating GP Series in 11-50 CNN Name SAT. DEC. 25

Morning 8:10 World News 9:10 World News

9:10 World Reports (r) 10:10 World Reports (r) 11:10 History of FIFA (r) 11:40 CNN News

Afternoon 12:10 World Horse Racing 3:10 2004 Gymnastics World Cup Final 5:10 Emperor's Cup Soccer Tourna-ment: Semifinal No. 1

12:10 CNN News 12:20 Sports & Encore Hour 1:10 NBA: Minnesota Timberwolves vs. San Antonio Spurs 3:10 What's On Asia

3:35 Amazing Sports 4:10 What's On Japan 5:00 PGA Golf 5:40 Football Mundial

SUN, DEC. 26

Morning 6:10 Figure Skating GP Series in China: Final: Ice Dancing/Wom-8:10 World News 9:10 What's On Japan (r)

MON, DEC. 27 8:15 World News 9:15 World News (8): Ichir 11:15 CNN Ne

(r)
9:10 BS Documentary: Terrorism in the World
12:10 CNN News
1:10 World Horse Racing (r)
2:10 Sports & Encore Hour
3:10 X-Games
4:10 Railway Adventures across

Afternoon 12:15 What's on Asia (r) 12:40 Weekly NFL 3:15 CNN News 4:15 World News

U.S.A. 5:00 PGA Golf 5:40 Football Mundial

5-15 Acian Naws Evening 6:15 CNN News

6:15 CNN News 9:15 Economic News 11:15 NFL: Denver Broncos vs. Tennes-see Titans 2:15 Asian News

2:15 ASIAN News 3:20 X-Games 3:50 World Amazing Sports 4:15 Asian News 5:15 World News

TUE, DEC. 28

10:10 2004 Japanese (8): Ichiro (2)(r) 11:15 CNN News **Afternoon** 12:15 CNN News

3:15 CNN News 4:15 World News 5:15 Asian News Evening 6:15 CNN News

6:15 CNN News 9:15 Economic News 11:15 NFL: Philadelphia Eagles vs. St. Louis Rams 2:15 Asian News 3:20 X-Games (r) 3:50 World Amazing Sports 4:15 Asian News 5:15 World News

WED, DEC. 29

Morning 6:10 Athens Olympics Best Selec-tions: Swimming/Judo 8:10 Athens Olympics Best Selections: Swimming/Judo 8:10 Athens Olympics Best Selec-tions: Gymnastics 9:10 Athens Olympics Best Selec-tions: Synchronized Swimming 10:10 Athens Olympics Best Selec-tions: Women's Marathon 11:15 CMN News

Afternoon 3:10 CNN News

3:10 CNN news Evening 9:10:2004 PGA Tour Highlights 11:50 CNN News 12:10 NBA: Toronto Raptors vs. Los Angeles Lakers 2:10:2004 BS Documentary Best Selec-

THU, DEC. 30

6:10 Athens Olympics Best Selec-tions: Wrestling/Baseball 8:10 Athens Olympics Best Selec-tions: Track and Field 9:10 Athens Olympics Best Selec-tions: Rhythmic Sportive Gymnas-tics

ns Olympics Best Selec

10:10 Athens Olympics Best Selec-tions: Men's Marathon 11:15 CNN News

Evening 6:10 BS Documentary: Best Selections: Suicide Bombing 7:10 BS Documentary: Best Selections: Children in Iraq 8:10 BS Documentary: Best Selections: Children in Iraq 10:10 BS Documentary: Occupied Banhad

Bagndad 11:50 CNN News 12:10 NFL: Washington Redskins vs. Dallas Cowboys 3:10 BS Documentary: Tibet Soccer 4:10 BS Documentary: Diplomacy in

Europe 5:10 BS Documentary: Powerful Torna-

FRI, DEC. 31

Morning
7:10 2004 PGA Tour Highlights (r)
7:10 2004 PGA Tour Highlights (r)
7:11:10 2004 Japanese Major Leaguers
7:11:10 2004 Japanese Major Leaguers
1:10 2004 Japanese Major Leaguers
(6): Shingo Takadsu/Japanese
Major Leaguers (r): Akinori Ostutak (r): 4 Major Leaguers

ka (r) 2:10 2004 Japanese Major Leaguers (1): Hideki Matsui (r) 3:10 2004 Japanese Major Leaguers (8): Ichiro (r)

(8): Ichiru (7)

Evening
7:10 BS Documentary: Best Selections: British Photographer Died in Gaza

2:30 U.S. Movie (2000): Geppetto (1:30)

12:30 U.S. Movie (1976): The Outlaw Josey Wales (2:20)

and U.S. (1/2)
9:10 BS Documentary: Saudi Dynasty
and U.S. (2/2)
10:10 BS Documentary: Returned Soldiers from Iraq
11:50 CNN News SAT, JAN. 1

Morning 11:50 CNN News

11:90 CNN News Afternoon 12:11 prints: Skating GP Series High-12:10 Figure Skating GP Series High-lights: Skating in Canada Evening-ors' Cup Soccer Tourna-ment: Final 11:90 CNN New Sames (1) 3:10 NFL: Best Games (2)

SUN, JAN. 2

Morning 8:10 World News 11:50 CNN News Afternoon 12:10 Figure Skating GP Series High-lights: NHK Trophy Evening 11:50 CNN News 2:10 NFL: Best Games (3)

JAPAN TV (BS11/NHK SATELLITE) (BILINGUAL, SPORTS, MOVIES AND MUSIC) SAT. DEC. 25 7:00 NHK News TUE, DEC, 28

1:10 U.S. Movie (1996): The First Wives Club (1:45)

SUN, DEC. 26

11:00 Aerobics

MON, DEC. 27

3:00 Swedish Movie (1993): Lotta Leaves Home (1:25)

Evening 8:00 U.S. Movie (1985): Pale Rider

2:40 Swedish Movie (1992): Lotta Pa Brakmakargatan (1:20) Evening 7:00 NHK News

7:55 U.S. Movie (1990): The Rookie (2:05) 12:45 U.S. Movie (1964): Cheyenne Au-tumn (2:40) WED, DEC. 29

3:00 Inside the Actor's Studio: Pearce Brosnan Evening

7-00 NHK Name 12:30 U.S. Movie (1972): Jeremiah Johnson (1:54) 2:24 U.S. Movie (1961): The Dealy Com-panions (1:36)

THU, DEC. 30

FRI, DEC. 31

Evening 7:00 NHK News

1:00 Classical Music: Berlin Philhar-monic Orchestra Silverstar Con-2:35 Ray Charles Forever (r)

cert 2004 (conductor: Simon Rat-

SAT. JAN. 1 Afternoon

3:03 U.S. Movie (1964): My Fair Lady Evening

7:10 Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra 2005 New Year Concert (conduc-tor: Larin Maazel) 12:50 British Drama: Hornblower

SAT, DEC. 25 Morning 7:00 Navy Band Holiday Concert 8:30 Air Force Band of the Rock

9:30 Movie: Home Alone 11:00 Christmas at the Crystal Walt Disney's Merry Christ-mas Parade

mas Parade
Afternoon
2:00 Frosty the Snowman
2:30 What's New Scooby Doo?
3:00 Movie: How the Grinch Stole
Christmas
5:00 Access Hollywood

Evening 6:00 Headline News

6:00 Headfline News 6:20 ESPNews 7:00 All ABC Bloopers 8:00 Lee Wars 2004: The USA vs. 10:00 Headfline News 10:30 Saturday Night Live 12:00 Kickin' It 10:00 The Entertainers 2:00 Inside the NFL 3:00 NCAA FOODball: Sheraton Ha-wall Bow't Hawall vs. Univer-sity of Alabama-Birmingham

SUN. DEC. 26

6:00 ESPNews 6:30 The NFL Today 7:00 NFL Football: Oakland Raid-ers at Kansas City Chiefs 10:00 ESPNews 11:00 Headline News 11:30 Air Force TV News

11:30 Air Force TV News Afternoon 12:00 Madeline 12:30 Happlijk Ever After 1:30 The Three Stooges 1:30 The Three Stooges 2:30 Gilligan's Island 2:30 The Simpsons 3:00 Motorweek 3:30 Ebert & Roeper 4:00 WWE Smackdown! 5:00 Androweds

Evening Leadline News

7:00 Smallville 8:00 Movie: Shakespear in Love 10:00 Headline News 10:30 Scrubs 11:00 Meet the Press 12:00 America's Black Forum 12:30 Access Hollywood 1:30 ESPNews

PNews x NFL Sunday FL Football: Atlanta Fal-ns at New Orleans Saints

MON. DEC. 27

12:00 Headline News 12:30 Judge Judy 1:00 Access Hollywood 1:30 Guiding Light 2:00 General Hospital 3:00 Larry King Live 4:00 Mucha Lucha 4:30 Mary Kate & Ashley 5:00 Jeopardy! 5:30 Headline News

6:30 Advisory Block 7:00 60 Minutes

Without a Trace

9:00 24 10:00 Pacific Report 10:30 Tonight Show 11:30 David Letterman 12:30 Access Hollywood 1:00 Headline News 1:30 The Late Late Show 2:30 Dennis Miller 3:30 Keith Olberman

4:30 Entertainment Studios 5:00 NFL Monday Quarterback 5:30 Headline News

TUE. DEC. 28

6:00 Good Morning America 8:00 Play with Me Sesame 8:30 Bear ... Big Blue House 9:00 Connie the Cow

12:30 NBC News 12:30 Judge Judy 1:00 Access Hollywood 1:30 Guiding Light

2:00 General Hospita 3:00 Larry King Live 4:00 All Grown Up 4:30 Teen Kids News 5:00 Jeopardy! 5:30 Headline News Evening 6:00 ESPNews 6:30 Advisory Block

9:00 Connie the Cow 9:30 Wheel of Fortune 10:00 Dr. Phil 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show Afternoon 12:00 NBC News

6:30 Advisory Block 7:00 Monday Night Football: Phila-delphia Eagles at St. Louis Rams

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tners at Tampa Bay Buck neers 9:30 Little Bear 9:30 Wheel of Fortune 10:00 Dr. Phil 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show Afternoon 12:00 Headline News

WED. DEC. 29

Morning 6:00 Good Morning America 8:00 Play with Me Sesame 8:30 Bear ... Big Blue House 9:00 Blues Clues 9:30 Wheel of Fortune 10:00 Dr. Phil 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show Afternoor

ternoon 12:30 NBC News 12:30 Judge Judy 1:00 Access Hollywood 1:30 Guiding Light General Hospiti Larry King Live The Fairly Oddr Teenage Robot

:30 Teenage Robot :30 Jeopardy! :30 Headline News

6:00 ESPNews 6:30 Advisory Block 7:00 The Parkers 7:30 Arrested Develop 8:00 The 4400 (Part I) 9:00 The 4400 (Part II) 10:00 Pacific Report 10:30 Tonight Show 11:30 David Letterman 12:30 Access Hollywoo 1:00 Headline News 1:30 The Late Late Show

THU, DEC. 30

9:00 Boonban 9:30 Wheel of Fortune 10:00 Dr. Phil 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show

1:30 Guiding Light 2:00 General Hospital 3:00 Larry King Live 4:00 Rocko's Modern Life 4:30 NBA Inside Stuff 5:00 Jeopardy! 5:30 Headline News Evening 6:30 Advisory Block 7:00 Two and a Half Men 7:30 Will & Grace 8:00 Barbara Walters —

8:00 Barbara Walters — 10 Most Fascinating People 9:00 C.S.I.: Crime Scene Investiga-

tion
10:00 Pacific Report
10:30 Tonight Show
11:30 David Letterman
12:30 Access Hollywood
1:00 Headline News
1:30 The Late Late Show
2:30 Dennis Miller 2:30 Dennis Miller 3:30 Keith Olberman 4:30 Entertainment Studios 5:00 ESPNews 5:30 Headline News

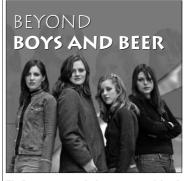
FRI, DEC. 31

6:00 Good Morning America 8:00 Play with Me Sesame 8:00 Play with Me Sesame 8:30 Bear ... Big Biue House 9:00 Clifford the Big Red Dog 9:00 Wheel of Fortune 11:00 The Ograh Winfrey Shot Afternoon 12:00 NEC News 12:30 Judge Judy 1:00 Access Hollywood 1:30 Good Sudding Light 2:00 Res Hollywood 1:30 Good Sudding Light 3:00 George Hollywood 1:30 Good Sudding Light 3:00 Good Sud

2:00 Generál Höspital 3:00 Larry King Live 4:00 Ozzy & Drix 4:40 The Brothers Garcia 5:00 Jeopardy! 5:30 Headline News

Evening 6:00 ESPNews 6:30 Headline 7:00 Arr) ESPNEWS) Headline News) Arrested Development) Arrested Development) Arrested Development 8:00 Arrested Developi 8:30 Arrested Developi 9:00 Arrested Developi 9:30 Arrested Developi 10:00 Pacific Report 10:30 Tonight Show 11:30 David Letterman 12:30 Access Hollywood 1:00 Headline News 1:00 Headline News 1:30 The Late Late Show 2:30 Dennis Miller

3:30 Entertainment Studios 4:00 NCAA Football: Sun Bowl — Arizona State Sun Devils vs



The Donnas want to be known as a rock band, not just a group of girls with guitars

BY SUSAN CARPENTER Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD o hear the Donnas, you'd It isn't so easy. think they spend all their free time pinching boys' bottoms or shoving them out of the way. They seem like a gang as much as a band — a tightknit clique snapping gum, smoking Marlboros and emasculating every man they meet.

See them outside of their records, and their reputation as Pabst-swilling, sex-crazed party animals quickly disintegrates. Trail them for an evening and you won't see them putting out cigarettes in men's drinks or writing their numbers on napkins in lipstick

Members of the Bay Area quartet are just regular girls — best friends who like to sip iced tea, eat candy and watch "The O.C." Most of them even have long-term boyfriends, even if those boys are tak-ing a back seat to the band these days while the Donnas promote their sixth and latest record, "Gold Medal."

On the eye of the record's release, Donnas A, C, R and F are at Hollywood's Bel Age Hotel having a quick dinner.

In 15 minutes they'll be heading to "Jimmy Kimmel Live" for an outdoor performance, followed by a midnight meet-and-greet at Tower Records and the official kickoff of what most likely will be a yearlong tour.

Donna R (Allison Robertson) is concentrating on her Cobb salad while Donna A (Brett Anderson) samples a shrimp dumpling that Donna F (Maya Ford) has warned is no good. Donna C (Torry Castellano) jokes about seeing her "good friend" actor Jason Schwartzman, who is a guest on "Kimmel." The entire group laughs, knowing she's met him only once.

Like the image they project on their records, the Donnas like to have a good time. But the devil-may-care vibe in their songs is an act — one that's at odds with their real-life ambitions. Two years ago, they made the leap to Atlantic Records after five years with Lookout, the Berkeley-based on rock radio."

indie label that signed them as teens. More mature as musicians and as women, they're now 25 and looking to ratchet up their career.

"We're taken less seriously now," says Anderson, a singer whose Sandra Dee good looks are at odds with her sneering vocals. "Every time we get reviewed in Rolling Stone, I feel like they're reviewing our first album. They might like it, but what they say about it is: hair metal. I'm like, 'Are you listening to the same album we just put out?'

Listeners familiar with the blunt-talking, come-hither/go-away guitar rock on their 1999 breakthrough "Get Skin-tight" or even their major label 2002 debut "Spend the Night" will hear some differences on "Gold Medal." The songs are slightly slower, to compensate for the tendinitis Castellano was diagnosed with last summer.

The Donnas' unique brand of snotty rock defies easy classification, but because they're a girl band - a rare breed these days they are compared with the few other women who've climbed on to the charts.

A decade ago, when the Donnas formed a band at their Palo Alto high school, it seemed like radio couldn't get enough female artists on the air. On the commercial end of the dial, Hole and L7 reigned supreme; out left, it was PJ Harvey, Liz Phair, Bikini Kill and Babes in Toyland. Women rocked. and radio loved them.

It's a different climate these days. The Donnas have been college radio faves for years, but they get almost no air time on commercial stations.

"It's funny because I feel like the same thing we were going up against when we were first starting out, we're still going up against," Castellano says. "When we first started out, it was a lot more blatant because the guvs at our school were like: 'Girls can't play. Go home and play with your dolls.' Now it's a little more subtle. No one actually comes up to us and says, 'Girls can't play.' They say, 'We just don't really play girls



Find Your Way Home Saturdays

Relocation Guide STARS STRIPES

AM WEEKLY RADIO

EAGLE 810 Morning (Sun) 7:05 Religious Programming 9:00 Eagle 810 Sunday Brunch (Smooth Jazz) Afternoon 12:00 American Country Countdown 4:00 A Prairie Home Companion

Evening 6:00 Focus on the Family 6:30 Travel Radio

7:00 Pacific Report
7:24 Pacific Report
7:24 Paul Harvey Rest of the Story
7:28 Eagle 810 News
7:30 Zama Commander's Corner (1st Friday)
Yokota Commander's Corner (2nd & 4th Friday)

day) Yokota/USFJ Chief's Corner (3rd Friday) 10:00 Retro Café (70s, 80s, 90s) Afternoon 12:05 Pacific Report

12:05 Pacific Report
12:07 Paul Harvey News and Commentary
12:21 Juli Force Radio News
12:22 Juli Force Radio News
2:00 Top 40 Music
3:00 Traffic Jamz (Current Chart Hits)
4:05 Pacific Report
4:07 AVN Sportspage
4:12 Paul Harvey Rest of the Story

6:00 From the Bench Live Sports (Wed)
7:00 NPR's Morning Edition LIVE
Yokosuka Commander's Corner (1st & 3rd
Thureday) Touchgusa Commander's Corner (1st & 3rc Thursday) 8:00 Rush Limbaugh 9:00 The Touch (Urban): Mon/Country Tue/Pure Gold (Oldies): Wed/Rock of Ages (Classic Rock): Thu/The Touch (Urban): Fri

(Urban): Fri
12:00 - Rock (Alternative)
2:00 Sports Overnight America
4:00 NPR's Talk of the Nation LIVE
Morning (Sat)
6:00 NPR's All Things Considered LIVE
8:05 Car Talk

9:00 Kim Komando 10:00 Classic Rock Afternoon 12:00 Rick Dees Weekly Top 40 4:00 Z-Rock (Alternative)

4:00 2-ROCK (Alternative)
Evening
6:00 Hot Jazz Saturday Night
7:00 The Touch (Urban)
12:00 Z-ROCK (Alternative)
2:00 Sports Overnight America 4:00 Adult Contemporary **POWER 1575**

Morning (Sun) 7:00 NPR: All Things Considered

8:00 Rush Limbaugh 9:00 Parent's Journal 10:00 Chef's Table 11:00 Sports Overnight America **Afternoon**

12:00 Adult Rock 4:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)

Morning (Mon-Fri) 6:00 Morning Air Strike 6:30 Paul Harvey News 7:10 Horoscope 7:30 Inside Iwakuni Radio News

7:30 Inside IWakuni Radio News 8:30 Rest of the Story 8:35 David Letterman/Leno 9:00 Country Call Up 10:00 Bright AC/Golden Oldies (Fri) 11:00 Urban Assault

11:00 Urban Assault **Afternoon** 1:00 Z-Rock/Golden Oldies (Fri) 2:00 The Afterburner 2:30 Inside Iwakuni Radio News 2:34 Rest of the Story

236 Pacific Report 3:30 Pacific Report 3:40 AFN Sportspage 4:00 Departure Time Evening 6:00 NPR: Fresh Air 7:00 The Rock Shou

7:00 The Rock Show (Mon)/Old School (Thu)/The Mosh Pit (Fri) 12:00 Adult Rock Morning (Sat) 6:00 Pure Gold (Oldies) 10:00 Soundbarrier

Afternoon 2:00 Rick Dee's Weekly Top 40 Evening 6:00 NPR: All Things Considered 7:00 The Jim Rome SI 8:00 The Touch 12:00 Z-Rock 5:00 Hot Jazz

JAPAN — MISAWA

THE EDGE - AM 1575

Morning (Sun) 12:00 Z-Rock 2:00 Z-ROCK 2:00 Classic Rock 4:00 Hot AC 6:00 Sam Donaldson 7:00 Religious 9:00 Oldies 10:00 Hot AC Afternoon 12:00 ACC Country

Evening 6:00 Prairie Home 6:00 Prairie Home 8:00 Hot AC Morning (Mon-Thu) 12:00 Z-Rock 2:00 Classic Rock 4:00 Sports Overnite America 5:00 Rush Limbaugh 6:00 Matt in the Morning

9:00 Hot AC Afternoon 12:00 Classic Rock 3:00 Edge Afternoon Radio Evening 6:00 Country

12:00 Z-Rock 2:00 Classic Rock 4:00 Sports Overnite America 5:00 Rush Limbaugh 6:00 Matt in the Morning 9:00 FlashBack 11:00 Hot AC

Morning (Fri)

Afternoon 12:00 Classic Rock 1:00 Inside The Line 3:00 That Country Show Evening 6:00 Classic Rock 8:00 R&B 10:00 Hot AC Morning (Sat) 12:00 Z-Rock 2:00 Classic Rock 4:00 Hot AC 8:00 Car Talk 9:00 Saturday Retro

Afternoon 12:00 Rick Dees 3:00 Nuestra Musi 5:00 Kim Komando Evening 6:00 Jim R 7:00 Z-Rock

9:00 Hot At

JAPAN — SASEBO

THUNDER RADIO 1575 THUNDER RADIO 1575 Morning (Sunday) 12:00 Top 40 4:00 Soft Hits 7:00 Religious Programming 10:00 Focus on the Family 10:30 The Environmental Show 11:00 Savvy Traveler

ican Country Countdown

Afternoon 12:00 American C 4:00 Top 40 Evening 6:00 Classic Rock 9:00 Z Rock Morning (Mon-Fri) 12:00 Soft Hits 3:00 Oldies 5:00 Rush Limbaugh 6:00 Morning Drive 9:00 Country Afternoor

12:00 "The Jam" with Nikki V. (Mon, Wed and 12:00 Urban Music (Tue and Thu)

12:00 Urban Music 3:00 "The Rush" Evening 6:00 Classic Rock 9:00 Top 40

Morning (Saturday)

12:00 Top 40 4:00 Classic Rock 7:00 All Things Considered 8:30 Best of Our Knowledge 9:00 Oldies 10:00 Car Talk 11:00 DJ Top 40 Show (live)

Afternoon 12:00 Rick Dees American Top 40 4:00 Nuestra Musica 5:00 Country Evening 8:00 Url

KOREA

Thunder AM Morning (Sun) 12:00 Country 5:00 NPR Weekly Edition 7:00 Bright Adult Contemporary 10:00 Nuestra Musica

Afternoon 12:00 Oldies Radio 4:00 Sports Overnight America Evening 6:00 NPR Car Talk 7:00 Prairie Home Companion 8:00 NPR Weekend Edition Sunday 11:00 Country Morning (Mon)

12:00 Country 5:00 NPR 5:00 NPR 7:00 Morning Report 7:30 This Week with Sam & Cokie 8:00 Oldies Radio Afternoon

12:00 Noon Report 12:35 News & Views 1:00 Dr. Laura 2:00 Country 5:00 Jim Rome Show Evening 6:00 Evening Report 6:35 Sports Byline 7:00 Rush Limbaugh 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition

Morning (Tue-Fri) 12:00 Country 12:00 Country 5:00 NPR 7:00 Morning Report 7:30 NPR Marker Place 8:00 Oldies Radio

Afternoon 12:00 Noon Re 12:35 News & Views 1:00 Dr. Laura 2:00 Country 5:00 Jim Rome Show

Evening 6:00 Evening Report 6:35 Sports Byline 7:00 Rush Limbaugh 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition 10:00 Cou Morning (Sat) 12:00 Country 5:00 NPR All Things Considered 7:00 Oldies Radio Afternoon 12:00 Country 4:00 Sports Overnight America Evening 6:00 Country 7:00 Rush Limbaugh

8:00 Country 9:00 National Public Radio OKINAWA

SURF 648 AM Morning (Sunday) 6:00 Adult Rock (cont. Afternoon

2:00 Sports Overnight America (live) 7:00 Ben Maller & Jason Smith – Sports (live) 12:00 Country
Morning (Mon)
7:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live) 8:00 Adult Rock

8:00 Adult Rock 11:00 Jim Lampley (live) Sports Afternoon 12:00 Steve Schlanger 1:00 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded)

1:00 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded)
2:00 Adult Rovel
4:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (recorded)
5:00 Sports Overnight America
Evening
7:00 NPR'S Morning Edition (live)
1:00 Country
1:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (live)
2:00 Country

Z:00 Country Morning (Tue-Thu) 6:00 NPR's All Things C 8:00 Adult Rock 11:00 FOX Sports

Afternoon 12:00 The Jim Rome Show (recorded) 1:00 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded) 2:00 Adult Rock

2:00 Adult Rock 4:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (recorded) 5:00 Sports Overnight America

SSUS Sports Overnight America Evening 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition (live) 11:00 Country (live) Morning (Fri) 6:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live) 8:00 Country 11:00 FOX Sports

Afternoon 12:00 The Jim Rome Show (recorded) 1:00 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded) 1:45 Paul Harvey

4:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (recorded) 5:00 Sports Overnight America Evening 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition (live) 11:00 Country (live

11:00 Country (live)
Morning (Sat)
8:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)
10:00 Adult Rock
Afternoon
12:00 The Jim Rome Show (recorded)
1:00 Adult Rock
3:00 Sports Overnight America (live)

Evening 6:00 Adult Rock

6:00 Adult Rock (Note: The Schedule is subject to change due to sports schedules.)

FM WEEKLY RADIO

JAPAN — YOKOTA FM CABLE Radio Services (On Base Only) Z-Rock (Alternative) 90.3 FM

Eagle 810 (Variety) 90.7 FM National Pubic Radio (News. Talk) 91 3 FM Bright AC (Pop) 91.7 FM

Adult Rock (Classic Rock) 92.3 The Touch (Urban) 92.7 FM Country 93.3 FM

Pure Gold (Oldies) 93.7 FM Hot AC (Today's Hits) 94.3 FM National Public Radio Morning (Sun)

6:00 Weekend All Things Considered 8:00 Hot Jazz Saturday Night 11:00 Piano Jazz

Afternoon 12:00 Beethoven Network

1:00 Weekend All Things Considered 2:00 Dialogue 2:30 Uncommon Knowledge

3:00 The WFMT Jazz Network

Evening 6:00 Wait. Wait Don't Tell Me

7:00 A Prairie Home Companion 9:00 Weekend Edition Sunday 11:00 Justice Talking 12:00 Fresh Air Weekend 1:00 This American Life 2:00 Le Show with Harry Shearer 4:00 Newseum Radio 5:00 Weekly Edition

Morning (Mon)

6:00 Weekend All Things Consid 8:00 The WFMT Beethoven Network Afternoon 12:00 Car Talk

1:00 Weekend All Things Considered 2:00 Fresh Air Weekend

3:00 The WFMT Jazz Network Evening 6:00 Morning Edition

11:00 The Diane Rehm Show (call in) 12:00 The Connection (call in) 1:00 Fresh Air 2:00 Wait, Wait Don't Tell Me 3:00 Talk of the Nation (call in)

5:00 All Things Considered Morning (Tue-Fri) 7:00 The World

8:00 Marketplace

8:30 Says You (Tue) Latino USA (Wed) Living on Earth (Thu) Uncommon Knowledge (Fri) Rewind (Sat) 9:00 The WFMT Beethoven Network

1:00 All Things Considered 3:00 The WEMT Jazz Network Evening

6:00 Morning Edition 11:00 The Diane Rehm Show (call in) 12:00 The Connection (call in) 1:00 Fresh Air

1:00 Presh Air 2:00 Wait, Wait Don't Tell Me (Tue) Re-wind/ Says You (Wed) Newseum Radio (Thu) Car Talk (Fri) Dia-logue/ Uncommon Knowledge (Sat) 3:00 Talk of the Nation (call in) 5:00 All Things Considered

Morning (Sat) 7:00 The World 8:00 Marketplace

9:00 The WFMT Beethoven Network

1:00 All Things Considered

3:00 The WFMT Jazz Network 5:00 WFMT Jazz Evening 6:00 Thistle & Shamrock

7:00 Weekly Edition 8:00 Rewind 8:30 Says You

9:00 Weekend Edition Saturday 11:00 Car Talk (call in) 12:00 Reale Street Caravan 1:00 Weekend Edition Saturday 3:00 Hot Jazz Saturday Night

KOREA

EAGLE FM Morning (Sun)

12:00 7-Rock 4:00 Bright Adult Contemporary 8:00 Christian Contemporary 9:00 Bright Adult Contemp 10:00 Saturday Night 80's

12:00 Bob Kingslev's Country Count-4:00 Bright Adult Contemporary Evening

9:00 7-Rock Morning (Mon-Fri) 12:00 Z-Rock 5:00 Live Local Show (Seoul, Uijong-bu, Kunsan, Taegu and Osan)

10:00 Live Local Show (Seoul, Taegu and Osan) 1:00 Bright Adult Contemporary 3:00 Live Local Show (Korea-wide) Evening 6:00 Adult Rock

8:00 Urban Adult Contemporary Morning (Sat) 12:00 Z-Rock 5:00 Bright Adult Contemporary

8:00 Saturday Morning Wake-up (Korea-wide) 12:00 Bright Adult Contemporary

Evening 9:00 Adult Rock FM - WAVE 89 1

OKINAWA

Morning (Sun) 12:00 Adult Rock :00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)

Afternoon 12:00 American Country Co 4:00 Adult Contemporary (Hot AC) Morning (Mon-Fri) 12:00 Adult Rock

5:00 Morning Show (live) 9:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC) 11:00 Wave Break (live)

1:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC) 2:00 Afternoon Show (live) Evening 6:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC) 10:00 Adult Contemporary (Hot AC) Morning (Sat) 12:00 Adult Rock

AUUIT ROCK
6:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)
8:00 Saturday Show (live)
11:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)
AC) Afternoon

12:00 Rick Dees Weekly Top 40 4:00 Adult Rock 6:00 Adult Contemporary (Hot AC)

AM RADIO SPORTS AND SPECIALS

SAT. DEC. 25

Morning 5:00 NFL Football: Green Bay Packers at Minnesota Vikings 9:00 College Football: Hawaii Warriors at Alabama-Birmingham Blazers

OKINAWA

Norning
2:30 NBA Basketball: Detroit Pistons at Indiana Pacers
5:30 NBA Basketball: Mlami Heat at Los Angeles Lakers
8:00 NFL Football: Oakland Raiders at Kansas City Chiefs
10:30 NFL Football: Denver Broncos at Tennessee Titans

Morning 3:00 NFL Football: Baltimore Ravens at Pittsburgh Steelers 6:00 NFL Football: Buffalo Bills at San Francisco 49ers 10:30 NFL Football: Cleveland Browns at Miami Dolphins

TUE, DEC. 28

Morning 7:30 College Football: Toledo Rockets at Connecticut Huskies 11:00 NFL Football: Philadelphia Eagles at St. Louis Rams

KOREA

SAT. DEC. 25

Morning 5:00 NFL Football: Green Bay Packers at Minnesota Vikings 9:00 College Football: Hawaii Warriors at Alabama-Birmingham Blazers

Morning 2:30 NBA Basketball: Detroit Pistons at Indiana Pacers 5:30 NBA Basketball: Miami Heat at Los Angeles Lakers 8:00 NFL Football: Oakland Raiders at Kansas City Chiefs 10:30 NFL Football: Denver Broncos at Tennessee Titans

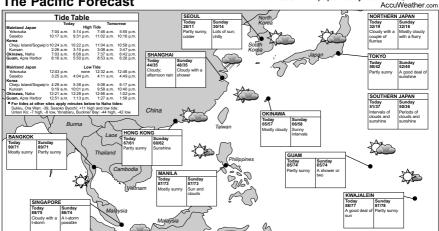
Morning 3:00 NFL Football: Baltimore Ravens at Pittsburgh Steelers 6:00 NFL Football: Buffalo Bills at San Francisco 49ers 10:30 NFL Football: Cleveland Browns at Miami Dolphins

THE DEC 28

Morning
7:30 College Football: Toledo Rockets at Connecticut Huskies
11:00 NFL Football: Philadelphia Eagles at St. Louis Rams

第3種郵便物認可

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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Monday: Partly sunny, high 51, low 38. Tuesday: Rain, high 54, low 43.

KADENA

Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 69, low 62. Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 73, low 65.

SEOUL

Borneo

Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 30, low 9. Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 22 low 5

MANILA

Monday: Mostly cloudy, high 86, low 72. Tuesday: Thundershowers, high 85, low 72.

HAGATNA

Monday: Showers, high 85, low 73. Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 85. low 74.

As of 7 a.m. Friday, Tokyo time

Thursday's USA Temperatures

	•		
CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	31/12	Los Angeles	72/44
Amarillo	19/4	Little Rock	28/14
Anchorage	40/12	Louisville	26/9
Asheville	56/21	Miami	81/67
Baltimore	58/30	Milwaukee	16/-3
Birmingham	37/21	Nashville	27/14
Bismarck	-4/-12	New York	61/34
Boise	34/21	Omaha	13/-4
Boston	55/35	Orlando	76/55
Brownsville	53/34	Philadelphia	62/32
Buffalo	50/18	Phoenix	56/36
Burlington	55/19	Pittsburgh	53/16
Charleston, SC	74/40	Portland, OR	49/32
Charlotte	65/30	Portland, ME	50/32
Cleveland	33/13	Salt Lake City	
Columbus, OH	28/10	St. Louis	21/1
Duluth	-4/-21	San Antonio	44/20
El Paso	39/20	San Diego	71/43
Hartford	58/27	San Juan	83/74
Helena	18/4	Tampa	72/54
Indianapolis	20/1	Tulsa	28/5
Jacksonville	76/43	Washington	64/30
Kansas City	18/-3	Wichita	18/-1



U.S. Extended Forecast Two large areas of high pressure will

Two large areas of high pressure will provide dry weather to much of the nation Christmas Day. The high pressure centered over the Ohio Valley will keep temperatures quite cold across the East, but milder weather is in store for much of the West. However, lake-effect snow will fall downwind of the Great Lakes. A warm front moving through the Upper Midwest will trigger some flurries across the region. The associated cold front will bring snow to the northern Rockies and rain to the extreme Pacific Northwest. Clouds will cover the Gulf Coast as a storm system causes a bit of rain to dampen the southeastern Texas coast; some showers will impact Florida. The Midwest will be warmer Sunday.

Saturday's Pacific Temperatures

Saturday's World Temperatures

		,						,				-	
CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY H	IGH/LOW
Bangkok	90/71	lwakuni	53/36	Sasebo NB	50/34	Acapulco	88/69	Budapest	46/39	Kabul	43/21	Nairobi	81/54
Beijing	31/15	Kadena AB	65/57	Sapporo	32/19	Athens	57/47	Buenos Aires	77/57	Kiev	35/30	New Delhi	73/43
Camp Casey	30/14	Kunsan AB	36/21	Seoul	28/11	Auckland	62/50	Cairo	59/43	Kuwait	68/44	Oslo	28/19
Christchurch	59/44	Kwajalein	88/77	Shanghai	44/35	Baghdad	56/33	Cancun	80/61	London	38/28	Paris	39/24
Diego Garcia	85/75	Manila	87/73	Singapore	88/75	Barbados	86/68	Cape Town	82/59	Madrid	45/24	Rio de Janeiro	77/66
Hagatna	85/74	Misawa AB	35/21	Sydney	72/61	Barcelona	52/33	Geneva	39/27	Mexico City	68/45	Rome	57/39
Hanoi	74/61	Osan	32/14	Taegu	41/21	Berlin	40/27	Istanbul	50/43	Montreal	11/6	St. Petersburg	28/19
Hong Kong	67/61	Perth	90/69	Taipei	69/56	Bermuda	73/58	Jerusalem	52/39	Mogadishu	92/75	Stockholm	34/26
Honolulu	82/70	Pusan	44/26	Tokyo	50/42	Brussels	40/22	Johannesbur	g 82/61	Moscow	28/21	Warsaw	42/33



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Appliances 025

Name

Address

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Foster, Okinawa - Hoover Car pet Cleaner. Nothing fancy but i gets the job done. Only used a couple times, bought a new on so I have no more room. Cal 646-3185 Foster, Okinawa - Household appliances for sale: Shark cord-less sweeper, \$20; Black & Decker Dust buster, \$20; toaster oven, \$30; Mrs. Tea, \$30 and spice rack \$10. Call #\$46-4374

or e-mail sullygem@yahoo.com. Foster, Okinawa - Mighty mend er sewing machine \$15 ca 646-4158 or emai sflokinawa@yahoo.com

Kadena, Okinawa - Dehumidifie like new \$90 paid \$160. PCSing Call MSqt Roney 926 0068 o Call MSgt Roney 926 0068 o email eric.roney@kadena.af.mi Kadena, Okinawa - Emerson Quiet Cool dehumidifier in great shape for only \$100. Call 633-9131 or 090-6860-4399.

Kadena, Okinawa - Nationa. 3-door Refrigerator/Freezer with Vegetable Drawer: Light Gray marble, 70"x24" Great shape, lots of room & ideal for off-base anartments. Available in 2-2 lots of room & loseal for off-base apartments. Available in 2-3 weeks. Paid \$400, PCS sale \$250. Call 893-7703 or papachinko@yahoo.com

Kadena, Okinawa - Toastr Convection Oven/Broiler Convection Oven/Broiler, 450 degree, 22"x12"x13" great for off-base apartments, can fit large baking dish for cakes, pizza, and lasagna. PCS sale \$50. Call 893-7703 or

Kadena, Okinawa - Toshiba Ai conditioner & compressor set Cooler, Heater, Dehumiditier Cooler, Heater, Dehumiditier Self-cleaning, on/off timer set tings, remote control. Purchase 4 months ago w/5 year warrant for \$780. PCS sale for \$650 C a 11 893 - 7703 o papachinko@yahoo.com

Kadena, Okinawa - White Westinghouse iron: adjustable steam,
burst of steam, coated selepate, titl view of water window,
thermostat adjustment dial,
cator light, 6 settings; (wool,
cotton, linen, rylon, acetum,
promostor,
selepate,
s

146 - Japan

Announcements

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STARS STRIPES

Autos for Sale - Japan

Atsugi: 94 Toyota Marino. Silver, grey interior, 4 door, 10 disc CD changer, keyless entry, auto-matic, 34,092 kilometers as of 12/3/04, 201 12/05. Runs great! Asking \$1800. Available now, Asking \$1800. Av call 264-6642.

Misawa - 1995 Nissan Serena, Low Klometers, AC, Power Child Locks, B passenger. Runs Great, Very Nice. JCI until July 2006. Must Sell, \$4200 Of Best Other. Call Jeff: 0176-52-7442, 222-5730 Days

Yokosuka - 1995 Ford Taurus Station Wagon: Dark Green, 4 doors, and unknown electrical ooors, and unknown electrical engine problem, however, re-pairable. The car is clean. JCI until Feb 06. MD/CD player, new tires, battery, and alternator, asking \$900 or obo Contact (Vincent Taylor) 243-7112 (H) or 046-652-4873. Please leave a message!

Autos for Sale

146 - Japan Yokosuka - Silver 92 Toyota Ceres with tinted windows, child safety door looks and A/C. JCI & Japan Inspection Good til Au-gust 2005: Runs Great! Asking \$2000/obo. POC: Jose 080-3028-5464 or DSN

Yokota - 1992 Toyota Town Ace Yan - CD player, new tires, power locks, power windows, two moon rooks, much more. JCI until April 2005, \$3,225.00 OBO. Call 227-2838. Yokota - 1993 Nissan: 5 GTS-1, black, 2-door, auto many extras, JCI until

many extras, JCI \$3600 calls 227-8627

\$3600 calls 227-6827.

Vokicha 1983 Tyota Hilux Surf.
Power windows, Power Locks,
Sumond ACHeat, CD player
with Hybrid GPSRV yeaken, 4
Eargo area. JCI valid until
October 2006, Asking 84,200 or beat ofter. Port of Contact
Eargo area. JCI valid until
October 2006, Asking 84,200 or beat ofter. Port of Contact
224-2002 ... 227-3988 or
224-2002 ... 228-2002 ...
226-2002 ... 227-2088 or
226-2002 ... 227-2088 or
226-2003 ... 228-2008 or
226-2003 ..

Autos for Sale - Japan

- 1990 Toyota Lite Ao Automatic. AC. Powe Windows and Locks, JCI until May 2005. Sell for \$1000.00. Call 267-6129 after 6 PM or e-mail tofamily@wta.att.ne.jp Zama - 92 Mercedes Benz 190E, dark grey, power window JCI until July 2005 \$3,000. Cal 263-8660 after 7 p.m.

Autos for Sale - Korea

Osan, Korea - 1992 Ranger auto with OD AC ABS, Excellent wheels, tires, paint, & toolbox. Beautiful truck \$2,900 OBO. Call 017-346-2652 or email rusty_grubb@yahoo.com for pictures.

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Autos for Sale 146 - Korea

Humpherys - 1992 Dodge Cargo Van. New Brakes & Rotors, Wheel Bearings, Albernator, Fuel Pump, Water Pump, Too Much To list. \$1000 or Best offer. Call Daryl or June at: Home, 031 - 687 - 2686, Cell: 016.447 - 5553, Work 0317-53-9755.

Osan - 1996 KIA Pregio 9-Person Van. Automatic Trans-nission. Diesel. Blue with Gray Stripe. 170,000Km. New tires in Sep 2004. Qualifies for the express bus lane. \$2300. Call Steve or Dana at 031-664-7043 Home) or DSN 784-5232 Work).

Pusan- 1999 Pontiac Firebird (Formula) 5.7L V-8, Black, 69K Miles, Auto, ABS, 12 CD Changer, \$10.500. 010-8671-4281.

Yongsan - 1994 Hyundai Sonata II, 4 door sedan, 5 Speed, A/C, Power Windows/Locks. We PCS in Jan. \$800. DSN 723-4269 or 736-7575

Announcements 040

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Announcements 040

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Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Yongsan - Maroon, 1992 Volvo 940 Turbo 4dr sedan. Excellent condition, libr, power everything, A/C, heated seats, automatic trans, stereo, ski rack, bike rack, alarm, many extras. \$4000 OBO. Call Ron, 011-987-3750

Autos for Sale Korea

gsan - 2002 Ford F150 XLT gbed Pick-up truck, 4X4, Exigoded Pikhop Hotel. Amper shell, Dark Blue Metallic, 35K miles, 5.4 liker V-8, Auto, ABS, AC, Titwheel, Captains chairs, PW, PDL, CC, AMPM Cass-6 disc CD, Excellent condition, runs & drives great. \$24,000. 0 1 0 - 4 7 2 3 - 2 1 5 7, my959superbeelth hotmali.com.

Autos for Sale

Foster - 1991 Toyota Carrny, V6 engine, JCI Oct 05, excellent A/C, CD player, runs great, sunroof, keyless entry, power door, seat, window, rear window automatic transmission - Okinawa 152 Courtney - 1991 Toyota Town Ace Van FOR SALE 1200.00 OBO JCI until April 2006, CD

Courtney - 92 Nissan Skyline GTS: EXCELLENT 2doors, JCI 705 120K AC automatic

Arc, CD player, to-surroof, keyless entry, door, seat, window, rear wiper, automatic trans only \$1,700.00 OBO. Cc 646-5852(H) or 645-355 (W) andyfcus@yahoo.com Foster - 1992 Nissan 180SX: 3Cl Apr 2006, SR200ET, TEIN suspension, 17" rims, full ex-haust, Skyline 5-lag / big brake conversion, Blitz air deaner, Blitz meters, Casco tension rods, \$3500. billa@66 dtc.ne.jp or 090-2507-6528. player, power, power lock, GREAT A/C. Available the end December call Heather 622-8746 or email yorkint@bww.com

Autos for Sale 148

great condition, too many cars got to go soon \$2800.00 OBO 646-2350 090 6860 3891 or

- Okinawa

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Foster - 1994 Honda Inspire, pearl color, 5 cylinder, automat-ic, 4-door, sunroof, finited win-dows, firms, wheels, CD player, cold AC, power windows and locks. \$2100 obo. Call 645-4978. A must see!! Courtney - 1992 Toyota Carrry: Clean car, very reliable. Power, Windows, CD Player, JCI until February 2005 1500 OR Best Offer call Eric 622-5348 HERBMILL2000@YAHOO.COM

7/05,120K, A/C, automatic, CD/MP3, white 15° rims/tires lifetime warranty, tinted win-dows, great body & interior. No mechanical problems (brakes

Foster - 1994 Mazda Carol: (mini car) runs great gets 50 kilometers per gallon, Cold A/C, just a great little car. Asking 500 OBO. PCS'ing soon. Call 645-9404 Angelpokey@hotmail.

need to rotate) \$2,000.00 OBO. Contact JAVIER 622-7726 098-972-3117. Foster - 1994 Nissan Skyunu. 4 doors, automatic, excellent con-dition, JCI April 2006, Cold AC, automatic climate control, thred windows. \$2,500.00 willing to negotiate Call Mike @ work 645-2225, Westpac 6452455 Ext. 4430 or cell 090-7587-2651. Courtney, Okinawa - 1992 Toyota Levin: Clean car, very reliable. Power, Windows, CD Player, JCI until February 2004 500 OR Best offer call Eric 622-5348 or e m a i i HERBMILL2000@YAHOO.COM

Foster - 1994 Nissan Terrano SUV. Green. \$5,000 or best offer. 22,600 kilometers. JCI 12/05. Automatic Transmission. Four wheel drive. Power steer-ing and brakes. AM/FM radio and compact disk player. Power Foster - 1989 Toyota Surf: 4 door, sunroot, 4 wheel drive, 4 cylinder, automatic, AMFM CD, power windows, locks, JCI due 1106. EMERGENCY Unexpected PCS sale \$2500 obo for quick sale 646-4158 or stlokinawa @ yahoo.com

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Foster - 1990 TOYOTA MAS-TERACE SURF VAN: Power everything, AM/FM Cassette Radio and New tires. Very well maintained and very dependa-ble van. JCI: Oct. 2006 Asking: \$1,500.00/OBO. POC: Ron @ 646-4831 or cruzer23@oasis. Foster - 91 Toyota Surf: JCI good until Nov. 2006. \$3000.00 or best offer. Good condition. CD Player, AIC, power windows. Please contact William or Je-nene @ 646-2780 or willnjen716@hotmail.com.

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Foster - 95 Honda Clvic Hatch-back: Blue, very clean, cold A/C, 2 doors, power locks & Win-dows. JCI good until December 2006! Asking \$2,500. OBO Call #646-4374 or e-mail sullygem@yahoo.com

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dows. JCl good until December 2006! Asking \$2,500. OBO Call #646-4374 or e-mail sullygem@yahoo.com	thing, new brakes, new battery, 16" rims, JCI 06/2006. Asking \$1500 OBO call 633-2077. Kadena - 1993 Toyota Windom	CD/MP3 player, keyless start, other stuff too \$3500 obo Email C o d y @ 6 3 3 - 9 3 7 1 or speedracer170@aol.com	loaded with CD player, power windows, locks and great A/C. JCI due July 2005. Asking \$1,200 OBO. Please call Tim at 637-4694 (W) or 637-4299 (H).	Camp Carroll, Korea - 1995 Harley FLHTP: Low miles HRS 42 Carb, Vance and Hines Pro Pipe, Andrews EV 27 cam, new tires \$10.000 Contact Mr. White	picture or call 633-8218 for more information. Also have a lot of baby clothes, all in good condi- tion, will throw in for free	BMGT 483, business & Gover ment in the Global Mari Place, \$50; COMM 393 Tech cal Communication, \$40, COM
Foster - 96 Honda Odyssey, silver, automatic, cold A/C, CD Player support excellent condi-	less than 50,000 km. JCl till July 2006, CD player, Rockford Fosgate Amp & Subwoods New tires Brakes & CV hoots	Verteen D7 Terreto Fetteen	637-4694 (W) or 637-4299 (H). Kinser - 94 Skyline GTS-t. A must see. A great X-Mass gift for him or her. Turbo timer, GTB ground effects, Custom Vinyl design, tint, CD player, Cold	ea.army.ml	Kadena, Okinawa - First years sleep positional, First Years co-sleeper (barely used) and Safety 1st baby bouncer with toy	390 Management communic tion, \$40; GVPT 401, Und standing International confli- and Great Decision, \$40. C 277,8346
tion and very clean. JCl good thru July 06. Asking \$5,000, call 646-8018. Foster - 96 Nissan Laurel: Cold A/C, CD Player, Clean Interior, Runs Great. JCl 8/06. Can be	when JCPd. \$3,500. with stereo equipment \$3000 with factory stereo. Call 632-3577 ask for Jack or Missie	Lucida Seven-passenger van, antilock braking system, duel airbags, CD, TV and Global Positioning System, 4-wheel- drive, parking monitor, dual sun roots, 83k km, new tires plus 1 set with alloy rims excellent	ground effects, Custom Vinyl design, tint, CD player, Cold A/C, Recently Tuned up, New Rear Tires, etc \$6500 OBO call 637-4386 or 090 8294 1554 or	Korea - 2003 Harley Davidson 100th Anniversary 1200XL Cus- tom, Gunmetal Pearl, 850 Miles, Mint Condition. \$ 8,800 Firm, Clean Title. Call Miles at DSN 736-3016 or 011-9250-3498 clarkmic@hotmail.com	@ 632-3576.	Clothing 320
viewed at Westpac Inn. Asking \$2700 OBO. Call Dee @	Kadena - 1993 White Toyota Levin For Sale! Has extra set of wheels, RSR lowering springs, and GP Sports exhaust and 6-disk CD Changer. JCI until Nov. 2004. Make an offer I can't	condition, runs perfect, JCI until May 2005 \$8,500.Call 090-8433-5939 or e-mail manaroo@fanforce.net	637-4386 of 050 8294 1554 or email jenn8164@yahoo.com Kinser - Need to Sell By Next Weeld 1993 Nissan Silvia: JCI due Aug 2005. Asking \$2000		Kadena, Okinawa - Light brown crib: Adjustable mattress height, converts into toddler day bed. Mattress is still in plastic S65. Travel light swing \$10 like new. Brown and blue stroller a little scratched but works great. \$10.	Courtney-Assorted boys cloths great condition. 4 pairs pants, pairs of shorts, 2 shorts outfl and 2 black denim polo sp jackets (only worn twice). Siz
Foster - Have to PCS for legal reasons, so its a shame one	refuse. Call Cheyenne (W)-634- 6120 (H) 646-4370 or E-Mail cheyenne.mcneely@kadena.af.	Kadena - COOL JAPANESE BOXY CARI 1997 Daihatsu Pyzar. White color. Excellent condition, never had problem.	due Aug 2006. Asking \$2000 and Take over payments. \$1500 left to be paid, next payment due Feb. Great Carl Call (H) 637-3070, (W) 637-2957, and cell 090-5949-2465 or email	Motorcyles - Okinawa 170 Kadena - 2001 Harley Davidson	scratched but works great. \$10. Outside kids plastic cube with slide, yours for \$30. E-mail dynegy_dennice@hotmail.com for pictures or Call 633-1138.	range from 4 to 7. Will sell together or individually. 62254
offer, that's it \$6500. Call SSgt. B a l e 6 4 5 - 3 1 6 5 or 090-7929-8337. First one with cash in hand takes it.	Kadena - 1994 4-door Toyota	condition, never had problem. Low mileage, only 73,000km. Leather seat, very spacious and clean inside. Cold AC. Power window and lock. JCI good till June 2006. Asking \$4,200 OBO. Call 633-7446 or email	pak_mann@yahoo.com Kinner - Toucta Master Ace Surf	883 Sporstser upgraded to 1200, Blue, after market forward controls, exhaust, seat, chrome, and more. Do not have time to	Kadena, Okinawa - MEDELA PUMP IN STYLE: Used for 2	clothing, sizes 7-9 or mediu includes pant suits, tank top dresses, skirts, denim jack and dress pants. Hardly wo 8225455
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jci-2nd set of tires-\$1500- contact Jackie-965 4618 or Matt-623 5921, pls lv message or email alandivar_ 2000@yahoo.com	Wagon. Black/Blue. Great Shape. New brakes/CV Boots. Cold A/C. JCI until July 2005. \$2750.00 Call 633-6005.	Charcoal 1992 Honda Prelude	malave@konnect.net	ha YZ125 Motocross Bike: Ex- cellent shape and well main- tained. \$2100 Call Craig @ 633.2589 or email	Kadena, Okinawa - Moving Sale!!! Bouncy seat with vibra- tion \$15 OBO Baby Swing \$25 various baby and toddler toys \$1.55 if interpreted please call	
Kadena - 1989 Daihatsu Van: Great deal, \$500.00 JCI until Dec 26 2005 seats 8 new CD	Kadena - 1994 R32 Nissan Skyline: With Rb25de engine. \$2000 OBO. Nell 633-5147 or email darkstyle@peoplepc.com	spoiler, and sunroof, digital CD player, cold AC, power every- thing, new battery, JCI until Aug. 2005. Asking \$2,200.00 or make an offert Call 633-0179 or email dee 0980@hotmail.com for a	Molanio/Dorrick at 627-2795	bakers5@casis.mediatti.net Kadena, Okinawa - Pocket Bike! 50CC, 1 year old, red, racing slick tires, it's a blast! \$500 Call 634-7594 (day), 633-6791 (eve.	\$1-\$5 If intérested please call Desiree & 633-4269 or email me at gnjapan@kda.attmil.ne.jp Kinser, Okinawa - Umbrella Stroller: Excellent condition \$5.	Foster - Great Party dress Jessica McClintock designered sequenced bodice w spaghetti straps - red taffe Size 5/6. Never worn \$45.0 Call 645-3107
player, fun to drive, manual transmission. Please call Jackle at 633-7797. Kadena - 1989 Skyline GTS-T:	Kadena - 1995 Opel Astra: Convertible, maroon wiblack top, new tires, JCI July 2006, powerful 4 cylinder, ArC, power widow, power lock, 73k km, nice car, \$5,000 call 833-4545.	Kadena - MUST SELL by Jan. PCS'ingl 1991 Toyota Carina: 4door, blue, Power windows and	Lester - 1992 Honda Vigor (Black) Well maintained stylish vehicle All New belts, timing belt channed 10/03 Power every	634-7594 (day), 633-6791 (eve- n i n g) , e m a i l bo_ewertz@hotmail.com	Call 637-4386 or 090 8294 1554 or email jenn8164@yahoo.com	Kadena, Okinawa - Black lear er jacket: (size small) with thi labe. Bought at Wilson's leath but never wore it. I thought was too nice to wear. \$1 shellmill@yahoo.com for p
Kadena - 1989 Skyline GTS-T: 5speed lis mostly stock need to get rid of. I have a few aftermarket parts too much to list call me for details at 633-9930 ask for James or email at James sims	Kedees 1005 Ded Nieses	locks. Runs Great and AC works Great! JCI is due next month. Asking \$800 if interested, please call 633-8277 anytime to see or drive the car!	thing, CD/AM/FM, Cold A/C, Cruise Control, 5 month old tires, JCI 11/2005, Asking \$1400.00 OBO. Contact Keith at 6 4 3 - 7 8 2 0 (Work).	Auto Parts 180 Kadena - 18*Precious rims lip	Kinser, Okinawa - White Batiste Portable Bassinet's Cradle - Excellent condition \$45.00 OBO Call 637-4386 or 090 8294 1554 or jenn8164@yahoo.com	tures or call 633/6133
Kadena - 1989 Town ACF Van -	Silvia: 2-door, great condition, cold A/C, CD player, JCI until Feb. 2005. Asking \$3500 obo, we just need a larger car. Would consider trade for 4door car or I a r g e r v e h i c I e. paulandbritt@yahoo.com or call	Kadena - MUST SELL NOW - 92 Honda Accord Wagon: New time cold AC ICI due to 05	0908-668-9480 (Cell). Lester - 91 Toyota Lite Ace Van:	Kadena - 18*Precious rims lip spoke design. Color white. 5- hole 114.3pattern. Will fit Chas- er, Mark II, Cresta, Windom, Skyline GTS-T, tires not inclu- ded. Excel 8 J Bare 9 I \$600.00	Kinser, Okinawa - White Jenny Lind Crib and changing table with mattress in good condition \$50.00. Call 637-2969 or email	jeans. Great shape. Very cu Size 16. \$20. Call 633-5049 email sals7@oasis.mediatti.ne
JCI good until June 2005 \$400. Call Steve at 633-7441 or cell at 080-5035-7977. Kadena • 1990 Honda 4 door sedan White JCI Due July 14	paulandbritt@yahoo.com or call 633-4124. Kadena - 1995 Toyota Mark II Tourer V, JCI Feb 2006, fully loaded & very clean, perfectly	PCS'ing Jan 4th must sell this week. \$1500.00 OBO, all offers considered. Contact 633-1227 or email jtwysong@yahoo.com	player Installed and Cold A/C. Reliable family car for only \$1000 or your best offer. My email is salazaraa@oki10.med. navy.mil or call Alex @ 643-7516.	Skyline GTS-T, tires not inclu- ded. Front 8J Rear 9J, \$600.00 O.N.O. Fore more detail call SRA Perkins: 632-5011 or Email: jerry. perkins@kadena.af. mil	malave@konnect.net Okinawa- Graco Light weight Duo Glider double stroller, dark blue with a cute teddy bear print	Kadena, Okinawa - DANCER & CLUBGOERS, I have a ton sexy tops and dresses that a great for an evening out, me have never been worn! Si
sedan, White, JCI Due July 14 2005, good car, first \$900 can take it, call Ren at 633-7129 or e-mail me at ren@casts.mediat- ti.net	matic, PWR Windows, seats,	Kadena - PCS'ing: 1992 Honda Accord Wagon: Must sell before Jan 4th A little over a year left on JCl, great car, have had no problems with it \$1500 OBO Cold AC. Please contact 633-1227 or e m all		Kadena, Okinawa - 4 Custom 17" rims with BRAND NEW YOKOHAMA TIRES. Rear 255/40/17, front 215/45/17. Ask- ing \$500 or make offer. Contact Nate at nikoneli 6 oasis.mediatti.	on each seat. Also a matching infant car seat/carrier, 3 position adjustable base and 3 easy 2-piece chest clip. Both brand new never have been used and	small shellmil@yahoo.com : pictures or 633-8133
Kadena - 1990 Nissan Skyline GTR JCI 7/2006, Crower rods, Welsco pistons, N1 oil/water pumps, OS Giken triple plate	Hunter Green exterior w/ Gray contour seats, rear wing spoller withird brake light, tinted windows, stainless racing exhaust, all rolling on low profile 215x45x17 Lemans tires mounted on 5 star sport rims. Asking	twysong@yahoo.com	Newl JCI. 10Disc CID Player will sell for \$600 or best offer. Minor dent on the passenger side. Email me @ salazaraa@oki10. med.navy.mil or give me a call	Madena Okinawa - I have stock	are still in their original boxes. Bought it from Bables'r' us, but ended up not using them and taking up space at home. Asking price is \$110 for the stroller and	Kadena, Okinawa - I have a si 16 pair of really cute/styli jeans, a size XL long sleev shirt from old navy, and a si 16 nice blue long sleeved sh Will sell all for \$15 or \$5 eat Call Desiree @ 633-4269 email me @ grijapan @ko attmil.ne. @
clutch, Route 6 Racing Trans- mission. New motor, less than 2000 KM. Oil changed every 500 km, upgraded turbos, com- puter. \$10000. 633-0047	take over payments of \$265 month through dealer Call	Kadena - R33 Skyline for sale: Must go immediately. \$1,000.00 or take over payments of \$176.00. N.A, automatic, JCI is good until August 2005. Contact	Okinawa - 1991 Nissan Blue Bird, \$1500. Great Family Car.	r32 skyline parts for sale including suspension, side	carrier. If bought separately, then \$65 for stroller and \$45 for the baby carrier. Please call 632 3499 or cell 09097898384.	
Kadena - 1990 Skyline GTS-T, Turbo timer, HKS air Intake, blitz Blow off valve, 5-speed. Car runs great, just selling to get bigger vehicle for family, \$2,000 obo Call Lee 098-935-027 or	Kadena - 1996 Toyota Cynos:	good until August 2005. Contact joe.cain@kadena.af.mil or call 633-3223. Kadena - S14 Silvia Turbo:	er, Clean inside and out! Call Mr. Franklin at WK#645-3899 or 622-7561 / HM# 645-5003	and stock cat and down pipe great for JCI. I also have r31 rb20 valve covers for sale. Email me with your offer this brandon. kent@kadena.af.mil Yokota, Japan - Car Parts - HKS	Yokota, Japan - Back carrier, \$25; playpen, \$25; stroller, \$15; car seat, \$15; exersaucer, \$15; high chair, \$10; gate, \$5 each; recliner seat, \$5; bathtub, \$5. Call 227-2094.	Kadena, Okinawa - Lane Brys -Two pair of pants (o red/black/white striped and o black w/white piping) and o skirt (black w/white piping) SI 14. \$20.00 each. Great shap Call 633-5049 or sals7@oas
634-1144	CD stereo and cold A/C. JCI until April 2005. Asking \$1700 obo. Email I leschen. mcelwee@kadena.af.mil or call Lee at 934-1443 and leave a message.	Zyear JCI, S15 front end conversion, Eclipse Deck-TV, MD, CD, Radio, DVD player, R32GTR seats, infinity capa speakers, r33GTR inter cooler,	Okinawa - 1991 Nissan Laurel, \$1500, JCI until January 2006. Clean inside and out! Power everything and CD player. Call Mr. Frankin at WK#645-3899 or 622-7561 / HM# 645-5003	Hypermax: Fully adjustable shocks for HCR-32, excellent condition, \$800 OBO. Call 227-6836.	recliner seat, \$5; bathtub, \$5. Call 227-2094. Zama, Japan - Baby's toys and clothing for sale: PCS'ing soon, need to sell. Call Lorena at 633-6102.	Kadena, Okinawa - Lane Brys three pair of Capri leans: Si
Kadena - 1990 Toyota Pickup: 4-door, Grey, 7*Lift, 35*Boggers, Rancho Shocks, 5-speed, cliseal engine, Centerline rims, \$2500 OBO. Call Cyrus 633-2210 or 090-6861-6394 email cyrus, medeleos@kadena_at.mil for pic-	Kadena - 1998 Toyota Chaser Tourer V Pearl White, Low KM, Clean, Auto A/C, power every- thing, 18° Chrome Rims, Apex	super single plate clutch, etc. asking \$8500 obo. Interested? Call 633-8822 or email 0 9 0 1 9 4 2 2 2 6 9 . japanspec@yahoo.com	Okinawa - Must Sell 1992 Honda Civic. Cold A/C, CD Player, JCl Due Jan 05. Asking \$600.00 OBO. Call	Baby Items 200	need to sell. Call Lorena at 633-6102. Bicvcles 220	14. Great shape. Purchased ti summer. \$20.00 each C 633-5049 or email sals7@oas mediatti.net
tures	Exhaust, Tein Suspension, Biltz Boost Controller, ETC-s Control- ler, ETC, \$13500.00 O.B.O. 633.0047	Kinser - 1991 Gray Toyota Corona for sale! JCl due March 2006. Owned for 3 years and never had a problem. Runs	White Beach - Toyota Town Ace Truck: Great for Hauling Motor X	Courtney-Assorted infant cloth- ing, excellent condition! Carter's, Old Navy, baby Gap, Gerber and Oshgosh. Only worn 2 or 3 times because my son grew so fast. Includes 1 bathrobe, 4	Sagamihara, Japan - Japanese style girls' hike: Pink with hasket	Kadena, Okinawa - MOVIII SALE! Brand new Japanese s pajamas still in package. Sto won't let me return. Red p
Kadena - 1991 belge Toyota Windom 3.0 (Lexus ES300): JCI due 26 May 2005, no problems passing last time. Cold A/C, power everything, new brakes, and tires, CDMP3 player. \$2,500 or OBO. Call 633-8133, ORN1-724-4259 or email	Kadena - 2001 Saturn that MCCS was giving away! No- body agreed to pay for the JCI before giving away the car. Lot sale price was \$6000, selling for \$5000 - I do the JCI or \$4500 - you do the JCI. Email me at	great, interior nice and clean. \$800.00 Call or email with any questions. 637.2969 malave@konnect.net 1 Would hate to junk a perfectly good	bikes/ATV's or anything else. Has a trailer hitch. JCI is good until April 2005. Asking \$500 obo. Call 080-1705-5669 or email: ken.weakley@cfao.navy. mil	fast. Includes 1 bathrobe, 4 towels, 4 blankets, 13 onsies, 2 carseat headrests, 23 pairs of socks, 14 pairs of pajamas, and 45 outfits. 6225455 or joseph	and bell, never used, paid \$100 and asking \$45. Call 267-6368.	SALE: Brand new Japanese si pajamas still in package. Str won't let me return. Red p XXL (American X-larg Maroon/Burgundy pair (American large) Very beautil \$15.00 each. To buy o Desiree @ 633-4269 or em pe iff or large Michael to the lose.
0801-724-4259, or email my2md@hotmail.com. Kadena - 1991 blue Charlot. Runs Well. \$2,800. Call	sale price was \$6000, selling for \$5000 - I do the JCI or \$4500 - you do the JCI. Email me at Christopher.koehnle@kadena. af.ml or call 633-1346	vehicle!! Kinser - 1991 Nissan Skyline GTS: 5-speed byranny. No A/C. Puns good. JCl expires Feb. 2005. Available after Dec. 4.	Autos Wanted 156	Foster, Okinawa - Baby safety oate with base \$10 call	Kadena, Okinawa - Are you a UMUC COM major? Media Law COM 400 Textbook for sale: Mass Media Law, 2003 Edition / With CD-ROM 13TH - \$20 Email	me @ gnjapan@kda.attmil.ne. Kadena, Okinawa - MOVIII SALE!!! Pair of size 12 Old Na jeans! Really cube! Only S5. C Desiree @ 633-4269 or em
633-0423.	Kadena - 2004 Corolla 9,500 miles \$16k OBO. Call David & 632 2990 or 689 4410.	2005. Available after Dec. 4. Nice rims/tires. 4-door. Call James @ 637-390 or email thomtonig@3tssg.usmc.mil	Kadena - American Car Wanted! I don't care as long as it runs good. Contact John @ 632-3284, 634-6735/6736 or 090-6865-0765	646-4158 or email sflokinawa@yahoo.com Foster, Okinawa - Graco Swing: Open top 6-speed battery oper- ated with tunes and removable	wbrandonpratt@yahoo.com or call 633-0991 Wendy.	Desiree 68 633-4269 or em me at gnjapan 69 kda. attmil.ne.
Kadena - 1991 Toyota Hi Lux Surf: Blue 4X4. JCl good through April 2006, power win- dowshocks, sunroof, air condi- tioning, All 4 tires brand new, Fog lights, FM/AM sterso with CD player: \$3,500 obo Call for more left 8,527,7088 or	Kadena • 92 Toyota Vista: \$1,000. JCI until March 2005. Just over 100,000 km. totally rebuilt A/C is COLD! Electric everything. Great condition. Great gif for student for Xmas!! Call 633-0072.	Kinser-1991 Toyota Master Ace Van 4WD. 72,000 km, Seats 7. AC & Heater work great. CD with removable face. Power Windows & Locks. JCI good until May 2006. \$2000 OBO.	Kadena, Okinawa - Looking for any type of car either free or anything under a 1000 really want a car and need one to get to work please call 633-7726	ated with tunes and removable toy bar. Never used \$60 firm call 6 4 6 - 4 1 5 8 or e m a i I stlokinawa@yahoo.com	Kadena, Okinawa - NEEDED: UMUC Eng 102 Literature: An intro to fiction, poetry and dram, 9th ED, willing to pay reasona-	JOIN JAFA Japan Africa American Friendship Assocition, since 1981, For even
090-1949-9356 Kadena - 1991 Toyota Surf:	Kadana-92 Wht Tourts Arieto	Windows & Locks. JCI good until May 2006. \$2000 OBO. Call 090-6163-4624. Kinser - 1994 Nissan Skyline	to work please call 633-7726 Motorcyles - Japan 166	Foster, Okinawa - Infant car seat/carrier for sale with base for car. In great condition. Light blue & light green plaid. Has adjustable umbrella. Used for	9th ED, willing to pay reasona- ble price. Please help! Call 633-6743 or email amandasmommie817@yahoo.com	meeting info or news a information, please visit ww jafa.org//
CD player, in very good condi- tion. Asking 4500.00. Please call Bobby or Brandl at 633-0851 or email at gresh82@casis.mediat- ti.net	JCI: Feb 2006, Twin Turbo Engine. Burns Great, Electric Windows, Seats, and Suncool, Additions: Keyless Entry, Ground Effects, Spoiler, Ken- wood AM/FM CD/Cassette play-	GTS New Brakes, loe-Cold A/C, New Tires, Excellent condition. \$3,500 O.B.O. Call 637-2336 (day) or 637-3224 (evening).	Yokota - 2000 Black Harley Davidson Softall Standard: Many extra accessories com-	few months! \$35 obo email singlenomore77@hotmail.com or call 646-6838/ 090-6163-5036.	Kadena, Okinawa - UMUC Math 012 book 9th ED: Excellent condition. \$40.00 call 633-6743 o r e m a i l amandasmommie817@yahoo.	Collectibles 350 Yongsan - WANTED: Panmu
Kadena - 1992 Toyota Surf. Need to sell ASAP due to divorce. \$2,700. OBO. Every- thing is in good working condi-	wood AM/FM CD/Cassette play- er, All around new speakers w/10" 300 watt Kenwood Amp New Optima Battery included Asking \$4500 obo. Ask for Mari	Kinser - 1994 Toyota Celica JCI til Sept 2005 New Ac pump and Timeing belt last year, RSR exhaust. No problems just hard to haul motorcycles in it. \$2900	plete chrome package, custom seat, "HighPert" engine parts, new "Barnett" clutch and oil cooler, V&H Pro Pipe. Always covered in a "Cycle Shell", no	Foster, Okinawa - Looking for double jogging stroller in good condition. Willing to pay \$5 for it. Needs to be in good condition!! Call 646-6439 or email	Kadena, Okinawa - UMUCA GEOG 110 textbook: Paid \$110 at bookstore, yours for \$80. Call	jom memorablia and insign Seoul 1988 Olympic torch rel torches, nuetral nations super sory committee memorabl from DMZ. Contact
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Furniture 510

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510

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weekends.

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Bertuzzi's plea of guilty draws probation

VANCOUVER, British Colum-- Vancouver Canucks star Todd Bertuzzi pleaded guilty to assault, more than nine months after slugging Colorado's Steve Moore in the head from behind during a game

Bertuzzi, who faced a maximum of 18 months in prison, was given a conditional discharge Wednesday, the sentence prosecutor Garth Loeppky recommended after Bertuzzi agreed to plead

Bertuzzi received a year's probation in which he is not allowed

Sports briefs

to play in a game against Moore, who was hospitalized with three fractured vertebrae, facial cuts, post-concussion symptoms and

amnesia after the March 8 hit Bertuzzi also must perform 80 hours of community service. If he complies and meets probation requirements, he won't have a criminal record.

Bertuzzi was suspended indefinitely by the NHL, missing 13 regular-season games and seven

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postseason games while losing nearly \$502,000 in salary. On Friday, he was barred from playing in Europe by the International Ice Hockey Federation.

Turin '06 organizers negotiate transfer to cover shortfall

ROME - Organizers of the Turin 2006 Winter Olympics said Thursday they are negotiating a transfer of funds from a public agency to cover a budget shortfall estimated to be over \$243 million.

Organizers said in a statement they were meeting in Rome on Thursday to finalize a transfer of funds from Sviluppo Italia, an agency linked to the Economy Ministry that promotes business development and investment.

great Popov retires

Report: Russian swimming

PARIS - Four-time Olympic champion swimmer Alexander

Popov of Russia has retired. The French sports daily L'Equipe reported Thursday that

Popov, 33, made the decision after consulting with his coach and family upon returning home from the Athens Olympics in August, which he left without a medal, L'Equipe reported

The four-time Russian Olympian won the 50-meter and 100-meter freestyle in the 1992 Barcelona Games and in Atlanta in 1996. He earned a silver in the 2000 Games in Sydney

Pyeongchang to bid for 2014 Winter Games

SEOUL, South Korea - Pveongchang was selected Thursday as South Korea's bidder for the 2014 Winter Olympics, winning a second chance to try for the Games.Pyeongchang lost out to Vancouver for the 2010 Games.

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New Mexico (7-4) vs. Navy (9-2)

New Mexico (7-4) vs. Navy (9-2)
At San Diego
At San Diego
At San Diego
California (10-1) vs. Texas Frech (7-4)
Silicon Valley Classic
At San Jose, Calif.
Payout: \$750,000
At San Jose, Calif.
Payout: \$750,000
At Machaville, Tenn.
Payout: \$750,000
At Machaville, Tenn.
Payout: \$750,000
Alabama (6-5) vs. Bin Bowld rat (6-5)
San Bowld rat (6-5)

Payout: \$750,000
Alabama (6-5) vs. Minnesota (6-5)
Sun Bowl
At B Paso, Texas
Purdue (7-4) vs. Arizona State (6-3)
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenna
At Memphis, Tenna
Boise State (1-0) vs. Louiswille (10-1)
Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
Payout \$2.2 million
Miami (6-3) vs. Torida (7-4)

Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL

American League
BOSTON RED SOX—Agreed to terms with
HP Matt Clement on a three-year contract
nd LHP Lenny DeNardo on a one-year con-

tract.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Agreed to terms with RHP Orlando Hernandez on a two-year contract. Named Nick Leyva manager of Charlotte of the IL, Bobby Tolan hitting

contract. Named Nick Lown, manager of cooking and patient Empirical pictures of cooking and patient Empirical pictures of the Cooking and patient Empirical pictures of the Cooking Co

TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS—Agreed to terms with 18-DH Josh Phelps on a one-year contract.

with 18-0H Josh Phelps on a non-year com-lose AME Missional League.

10.50 AME Missional League.

Royster manager and Mariano Duncan could for Lav September 1.

Royster manager and Mariano Duncan could for Lav September 1.

Ren Howel pitching coach for Lackson View of Laving Coach for Lackson View of Laving Coach for Lackson View of Lackson View of Lackson View of Laving Coach for Coaleman of the South Marian pitching coach for Coaleman of the South Addatic Coach for Coaleman of the South Addatic Coach for Coa

MONTREAL EXPOS—Agreed to terms with

Brian Schneider on a one-year contract. NEW YORK METS—Agreed to terms with RHP Orber Moreno on a minor league con-

tract.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Agreed to terms with OF So Taguchi and LHP Mike Myers on with OF So Taguchi and LHP Mike Myers on one-year contracts. SAN DIEGO PADRES—Agreed to terms with OF Dave Roberts and OF Mark Sweeney on one-year contracts. BASKETBALL National Basketball Association CLEYELAND CAVALIERS—Activated F-G

National Basketball Association CLEVELAND CAVALIERS—Activated F-6 Luke Jackson from the injured list. Placed G Dajuan Wagner on the injured list. HOUSTON ROCKETS—Activated G Charlie Ward and F Bostjan Nachbar from the injured list. Placed F Ryan Bowen and G Andre Barrett on the injured list. Placed C Valded Gos MRGLES LAKED Placed C Valded Gos MRGLES LAKED CALL ACTIVATED FOR THE PROPERTY OF THE

Divac on the injured list. Activated Grant from the injured list. FOOTBALL National Football League

Deals

SCOREBOARD

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Saturday

AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m.-NFL: FOX NFL Friday. AFN-Sports, 5 a.m.-NFL: Green Bay at Minesota. **AFN-Atlantic, 9 a.m.**-College football: Ha vaii Bowl. Alabama-Birmingham at Hawaii.

AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.-NFL: ESPN Saturday itdown. **orts, 2:30 a.m.-**NBA: Detroit at Indina. AFN-Pacific/Korea, 3 a.m.-College football: Iawaii Bowl, Alabama-Birmingham at Ha-

vali (dld). **AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m.**-NFL Green Bay at Min-lesota (dld). **AFN-Sports, 5 a.m.**-NBA: Miami at L.A. Lak-

ers. AFN-Pacific/Korea, AFN-Atlantic, 6 AFN-Pacific/Korea, AFN-Atlantic, 6:30 AFN-Pacific/Korea, AFN-Atlantic, 6:30 AFN-SPorts, 10:30 a.m.-NFL: Denver at Tenessee. **AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.**-NBA: Miami at L.A. Lakers (dld). **AFN-Atlantic, 9 p.m.**-NBA: Miami at L.A. Lak-

ers (dld). **AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.**-NFL: Denver at Tennes-see (dld). Monday

AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.-NFI: FSPN Sunday NFI Countdown.

AFN-Atlantic, 2 a.m.-NFL: CBS The NFL Foday. AFN-Pacific/Korea, 2 a.m.-NFL: FOX NFL unday. **AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m.**-NFL: San Diego at Indinapolis. **AFN-Pacific/Korea, 3 a.m.**-NFL: Atlanta at Orleans. I-Sports, 3 a.m.-NFL: Baltimore at Pittsew ΔF urgh. AFN-Atlantic, 6 a.m.-NFL: New England at acific/Korea. 6 a.m.-NFL: Carolina at ampa Bay.

AFN-Sports, 6 a.m.-NFL: Teams to be anpunced.
AFN-Atlantic, 9 a.m.-NFL: Houseon ...
onville (dld).
AFN-Sports, 9:30 a.m.-NFL: ESPN NFL Prime-AFN-Sports, 10:30 a.m.-NFL: Cleveland at Mami. AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.-NFL: ESPN NFL Prime-Fime final.

AFN-Sports, 5:30 p.m.-NBA: Dallas at Den-ver (dld). Tuesday

loise, Idaho.

AFN-Sports, 7:30 a.m.-College football:
Motor City Bowl, Toledo vs. Connecticut at

ietroit. AFN-Atlantic, 9:30 a.m.-NFL: ESPN NFL Mon-lay Night Countdown. AFN-Atlantic, 11 a.m.-NFL: Philadelphia at AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.-Figure skating: ISU Grand Prix Final.

All Times Japan and Korea Standard Time; dld indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

Pro football



Saturday's games
Oakland at Kansas City
Denver at Tennessee
Sunday's games
Chicago at Detroit
San Diego at Indianapolis
Baltimore at Pittsburgh
Houston at Jacksonville
Atlanta at New Orleans
NY, Glants at Cincinnati
Buffalo at San Francisco Buffalo at San Francisco New England at N.Y. Jets Arizona at Seattle Washington at Dallas Carolina at Tampa Bay Cleveland at Miami Monday's game Philadelphia at St. Louis

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 fared

AF ments 1 Up 25 Jareu

Wednesday

1. Illinois (11-1) beat Missouri 70-64. Next:
vs. Longwood, Bordsh. Wisc.-Millw. 73-62.
Next vs. No. 9 Georgia Tech, Friday, Dec. 31.
3. Oklahoms State (9-0) did not play. Next:
vs. No. 13 Gorzapa, Tuesday.
vs. No. 13 Gorzapa, Tuesday.
5. Wake Forest (10-1) beat New Mexico
5. Wake Forest (10-1) beat New Mexico
16-44. Next: vs. North Carolina Ad. Thurs-

day, Dec. 30. 6. Duke (8-0) did not play. Next: vs. Clem-""" D'une 18-0 did not play. Next: vs. Clem-son. Sarcia; p. lan. 2.

7. Syracuse (11-1) beat Rice 88-72. Next: vs. Albary, N.Y. Tuesday.

8. Kentucky (8-1) beat William & Mary 92-47. Next: vs. Campbell, Wednesday.

9. Georgia Tech (8-1) beat Charleston Southern 99-48. Next: vs. Ladyette. Tuesday.

Richmond, Thursday.

10. Pitsburgh (8-0) did not play, Next: x. Richmont, Thruschis 2). Peat Central Corn. State 67-59. Next: te. Sarced Heart Local, 22. Washington (9-1) Deat Sarced Heart Little (1-1). Washington, Tuesday. Park 14-1. Next 14-

us Christi /b-54, Next: at wisconsin, Vednesday, 20. George Washington (7-1) did not play. lext: at Florida International, Thursday. 21. Mississippi State (11-2) beat Jackson-ille State 95-53. Next: vs. Virginia Tech,

ville State 95-53. Next: vs. Virginia Tech, Thursday, Dec. 39-0) beat La Salle 84-53. 22. Cincinnati (9-0) beat La Salle 84-63. Next: vs. Marii (Ohio), Monday, 23. Michigan State (7-2) did not play, Next: vs. North Carolina-Asheville, Wednesday, 24. Maryland (6-2) did not play, Next: vs. American, Thursday, 25. Virginia (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. Loy-ol Marymount, Thursday,

Wednesday's men's scores

Wednesday's men's scores
Learn 20
Boston Folleys & Learn 20
Bucknell 75, Niagan 34
Bucknell

Burley 74, Ball 51, 68
Charlotte 74, Indians 73
Charlotte 74, Indians 74
Charlotte 74
Charlott

ate Word 51

wyouning as, weaping the start and the start

Outrigger Hotels Rainbow of Semifinals Hawali 55, Oral Roberts 54 Southern Cal 81, UAB 78 Consolation Bracket Clemson 83, Indiana St. 57 Clemson 83, Indiana St. 57 Georgetown 57, Long Beach San Juan Shoote Championship Toledo 68, Auburn 65 Third Place ach St. 51

Third Place
Middle Tennessee 73, Delaware 69,
adidas D3 Desert Shootout
Second Round
Hanover 70, Mount St. Mary, N.Y. 64
EXHIBITION
Wis.-Eau Claire 86, Finlandia 70

Women's AP Top 25 fared

Women's AP Top 25 fared

Women's AP Top 25 fared

1. 150 (11-9) Wednesday

1. 150 (11-9) Wednesday

1. 150 (11-9) Wednesday

2. 3 salenfor (8-1) did not play, Next at Vastas

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2. 3 salenfor (8-1) did not play, Next at Vastas

4. Tosas (8-2) did not play, Next at Vastas

4. Tosas (8-2) did not play, Next at Vastas

5. Salenfor (8-1) did not play, Next at Vastas

6. Somestical (8-2) did not play, Next at Vastas

9. Tomestase (8-2) did not play, Next at Vastas

9. Tomestase (8-2) did not play, Next at Vastas

9. Tomestase (8-2) did not play, Next at Vastas

10. Olio Statt (1-1) did not play, Next at Vastas

10. Olio Statt (1-1) did not play, Next at Vastas

10. Olio Statt (1-1) did not play, Next at Vastas

11. Salenfor (1-1) did not play, Next at Vastas

12. Salenfor (1-1) did not play, Next at Vastas

13. Salenfor (1-1) did not play, Next at Vastas

14. Biston (1-1) did not play, Next at Vastas

15. Conception, Vastas

16. Vandersill (9-2) did not play, Next at Vastas

17. Manyland (8-1) did not play, Next at Vastas

18. Vandersill (9-1) did not play, Next at Vastas

18. Vandersill (9-1) did not play, Next at Vastas

19. Vandersill (9-1) did not play, Next at Vastas

19. Vandersill (9-1) did not play, Next at Vastas

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19. Parthas (8-1) did not play, Next at Vastas

19. Parthas (8-1) did not play, Next vastas

19. Parthas (8-1) did not

20. UCLA (6-3) did not play. recat. vs. 30-00-17 recal, Tuesday.
21. Purdue (6-3) did not play. Next: vs. 30-00th Dakota State, Tuesday.
22. Houston (9-2) did not play. Next: at lew Mexico State, Monday, Jan. 3.
23. Kansas State (6-2) did not play. Next: at literana. Tuesday.

23. Karisas state (v. 5. d.) Villanova, Tuesday. 24. Rutgers (6-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 9 Tennessee, Wednesday. 25. Utah (8-3) did not play. Next: at Gonza-

ti 70, N. Texas 58

Bowl glance

h Texas 10

Payout: \$1.55 million
e (7-4) vs. Oklahoma State (7-4)
Thursday, Dec. 30
Continental Tire Bowl

Emerald Bowl At San Francisco Pavout: \$750,000

TANK MCNAMARA

WHAT CHAPS ME IS HOW THE OWNERS WHINE "WE GOTTA CLEAN UP BASEBALL" WHEN THEY MAKE AS MUCH MONEY OFF THE BIG HITTING STATS AS US GUYS IN THE PLAYERS" UNION PO AND IT'S NOT LIKE STEROIDS BOTHER THE FAMS, WHAT, WASN'T LAST YEAR'S MAJOR-LEARUS ATTENDANCE AN ALL-TIME HIGH? LOOK OUTSIDE CANDLELIGHT VIGILS EVERY OUR MEETINGS



Wednesday's women's scores

Wednesday's women's soci East Boston College 65, Saint Joseph's 41 Later 1975, 1964,

SOUTHWEST
SMU 80, San Diego St. 36
Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 70,
FAR WEST
San Diego 80, Air Force 78, OT
UNLV 66, Nevada 60

San Diego 80, Air Force 78, OT UNLV 66, Nevada 60 TOURNAMENT San Juan Shooto Championship Florida St. 83, Charlotte 72 Third Place

The Mark St. St. Chartote 7/2
The The Mark St. St. Chartote 7/2
Northwestern 667 his Place 6
Toledo 43, N. Iowa 40
Seventh Place
Fordham 72, Puerto Rico-Mayaguez 31
Sheraton Barcelo Navy Classic
Plaware St. 57, N. 2.- Asheville 51
Navy 65, Morechead 54, 46

College football

(1) to the control of Land (6-5) vs. Million
Land (6-5) vs. Million
Land (6-5) vs. Million (Olio) (8-4)
Insight Bowl
At Phoenix
At Phoenix
At Phoenix
Oregon State squares 193,000
Wednesday, Dec. 29
Houston Bowl
Payout: \$13,000
Texas-El Pass (3-3) vs. Colorado
Alamne Pass
Alamne Pass
Alamne Pass
Alamne Pass

At Charlotte, N.C.
Payout: \$750,000

Boston College (8-3) vs. North Carol

ATLANTA FALCONS—Placed FB Stanley ritchett on injured reserve. Signed FB

Politication Injuried reserve. Signed 18 and George Layes. Signed 18 that Be Grown from Cleveland's practice squad. Placed C no Derendes on Hunder reserve. In the Committee of the Committee of

SAN FRACISCO 49ERS—Placed DE Carter on injured reserve. Signed LB N Yates to the practice squad. Signed Corey Smith from Tampa Bay's prac

quad. SEATTLE SEAHAWKS—Placed LB Curtis SEATHE SCARRAWS—Placed Lb Curus Annald in injured reserve. TAMPA BAY BUCAMERER—Signed DE Bry-arth McNeal, Placed 5 Jermaine Phillips on in-jured reserve. Signed DE Kalvin Pearson to the practice squad. Released DE Corey Smith from the practice squad. SOCCET COLORADO RAPIDS—Named Fernando COLORADO RAPIDS—Named Fernando

lavijo coach. TENNISITF—Suspended Stefan Koubek

three months for failing a drug test at the French Open.

BCS planning new formula without AP poll

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

The Associated Press

NEW YORK - The Bowl Championship Series is ready to move on without The Associated Press college football poll.

"I wasn't surprised by the sion," Big East commissioner Mike Tranghese said. "I don't think it's a negative issue. We're just going to have to put our heads together and come up with an alternative way of picking the teams for the 1-2

The Associated Press told the BCS on Tuesday to stop using its poll to determine

which teams play for a national title. BCS coordinator and Big 12 commission er Kevin Weiberg has said the BCS hones to have a new formula ready by April.

"We're not heading toward a playoff," Tranghese said Wednesday. So for the second straight season and the fifth time since the system was implement-

ed in 1998, the BCS will change the way it computes its standings This season, the BCS streamlined its for-

mula and put heavy emphasis on the AP and ESPN/USA Today coaches poll. The goal was to make it more likely that Nos. 1

More changes brewing for troubled system

and 2 in the polls played in the national title game, unlike last season when Southern California was a consensus No. 1 but

left out of the BCS championship. Without the AP poll, the BCS's current formula is left with the coaches poll and six

computer rankings The BCS could just stick with those two and change the weighting system. Or it could add more computers. Or maybe it could even revive the strength of schedule component, which was eliminated because

it was deemed redundant. 'We certainly have other options on how to select and rank the teams," Pac-10 com-

missioner Tom Hansen said. The BCS already was looking at the possibility of a selection committee picking the teams for the championship game, taking a page from the NCAA basketball tournaments

But a committee probably wouldn't be the best way to fill the two at-large spots. And starting with the 2006 season, the number of at-large teams is destined to go

up as the BCS expands to five games to allow greater access to teams from outside the six conferences that now have automat-

"Adding the fifth game is going to give us less pressure," Hansen said. "One of the problems has been good teams being left out. With one more game, that's less likely to happen."

The original BCS formula was comprised of an average of the two human polls, an average of three computer rankings, total losses and strength of schedule.

Since then the computers rankings have changed in number and name and other elements have come and gone. The polls

have been a constant. The coaches poll is not likely to follow the AP's path.

"We'll be a part of it if we are asked to be a part of it," said Grant Teaff, the president of the American Football Coaches Association, which oversees the poll.

The AP said in a statement that the BCS's unauthorized use of its poll has "harmed AP's reputation and interfered with AP's agreements with AP poll vot-

So losing the AP poll doesn't spell doom for the BCS and is not a step toward creating the playoff system the fans and a growing number of coaches want.

The university presidents have made it clear they won't sign off on a playoff sys-

ABC, unhappy with the BCS's idea of adding another game with no champion ship ramifications, tried to push the BCS to-ward a playoff during contract negotia-tions for broadcast rights earlier this year. But the BCS simply found another suitor, happy to buy what it was selling.

The BCS signed a four-year deal worth \$320 million with Fox last month for the broadcast rights to the Fiesta, Orange and Sugar bowls from 2007-10 and the national title game from 2007-09

"The BCS is here and it's going to continue," Tranghese said. "But the BCS is a tar-get for all the playoff proponents. When something like this happens they jump on it. They look at something like this as a crack. They don't understand the strong position of our presidents.

BGSU pulls away from **Memphis**

By JOHN ZENOR The Associated Press

MOBILE, Ala. - Omar Jacobs and P.J. Pope helped Bowling Green turn a shoot-out into a blowout in the GMAC Bowl. Jacobs passed for 365 yards and five touchdowns — four in the first half — and

Pope ran 28 times for 151 yards and a pair of 1-yard scores in the Falcons' 52-35 victo ry over Memphis on Wednesday night. Pope also caught a 13-yard pass for the

only score of the third quarter to give the Falcons (9-3) a 42-28 lead. "He might be our best offensive player overall," coach Gregg Brandon said.

And that's saying something.

Jacobs, who capped a marvelous debut season as a starter, connected with Charles Sharon and Steve Sanders for two touchdown passes each before halftime.

The Falcons led 35-28 at halftime and

won their fourth consecutive bowl game We've been putting up big numbers in we've been putting up big numbers in the first half but we don't necessarily do it in the second half," said Pope, who has scored in nine straight games. "We were talking about finishing all week."

The Tigers (8-4), playing in back-to-back bowl games for the first time, couldn't keep up with the nation's No. 4 offense, which totaled 5S8 total yards. Memphis' DeAngelo Williams ran for

120 yards on 18 carries before limping to the locker room at the end of the third quarter with a broken right leg.

He hurt it earlier in the game but went back in and couldn't get through a tearful postgame press conference.

"He had been their weapon all year, and with him being hurt and out of the game we knew they're just a one-dimensional team," Bowling Green linebacker Jovon

Burks said.

Danny Wimprine nearly matched Jacobs' performance, going 26-for-39 for 324
yards and four touchdowns. But Wimprine
passed for just 11 yards in the third quarter and lost a fumble.

Jacobs, whose led the nation and set a Mid-American Conference record with 41 TD passes, completed 26 of 44 passes with



Rowling Green quarterback Omar Jacobs, who led the nation and set a Mid-American Conference record with 41 TD passes this year, was voted MVP of the GMAC Bowl.

an interception to earn Most Valuable Play-

If his first season as a starter is an indication, he's in line for the kind of prolific career of former MAC quarterbacks such as Byron Leftwich and Ben Roethlisberger.

"We saw glimpses of it in the few games he played in last year." Bowling Green offensive lineman Andrew Hart said. "We knew he had a chance to be pretty good. We didn't know how good."

The offenses stopped themselves early in the third quarter Jacobs threw only his fourth intercep-

tion of the season to give the Tigers the ball at Bowling Green's 41.

Memphis tried to go for it on fourth down but was twice penalized for having 12 men on the field.

We're going in to tie the game at that point, and it was a critical part of the game," Memphis coach Tommy West said. "We botched that up, and I'll take the blame for that."

Bowling Green made it 42-28 on the ensuing possession with Pope slipping underneath for a 13-yard touchdown catch on third-and-7.

The Tigers then squandered another trip across midfield when a scrambling Wim-prine fumbled the ball and Bowling Green's Mike Thaler recovered 31 yards behind the line of scrimmage to set up a

Not surprisingly, it was a night for offen-

Jacobs joined Roethlisberger and Leftwich as the league's only 4,000-yard passers. The Falcons also set the MAC record for scoring average in a season.

Bowling Green 52,

BG—Pope 1 run (Suisham Rick), 10:24, BG—Sharon 18 pass from Jacobs (Suish Mem—Doucette 42 pass from Wimpr klck), 6:51. BG—Sharon 36 pass from Jacob Bu-Shiaron 36 pass from Jacobs (Suisham kick), 4:39.

Second Quarter
Mem-Kelley 60 pass from Wimprine (Gostkowski ick), 14:43.
BG-Sanders 31 pass from Jacobs (Sujsham kick), 9:54, Mem-Avery 38 pass from Wimprine (Gostkowski

ick), 6-41.

Mem—Milliams 31 run (Gostkowski kick), 3:37.

BG—Sanders 17 pass from Jacobs (suisham kick), :37.

Third Quarter

BG—Pop 13 pass (Fourth Quarter)

BG—Pop 11 pass (Fourth Quarter)

BG—Pop 11 run (Suisham Kick), 3:18.

BG—Pop 11 run (Suisham Kick), 8:01.

Mem—Doucette 14 pass from Wimrine (Gostkowsk

kick), 3:48 Δ-NΔ

29 21 43-193 27-90 365 324 26-44-1 26-39-1 26 68 4-31.8 6-32.8 2-14 33:23

MIDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS Passing-Bowling Green, Jacobs 26-44-1-365. Mem-Receiving-Bowling Green, Jacobs 26-44-1-365. Mem-Receiving-Bowling Green prine 26-39-1-324. **g_Bowling Green**, Sanders 7-123, Sharon gner 9-68, Hawkins 2-25, McGrady 2-19, Pope **phis**, Gideon 6-38, Kelley 4-108, Avery 3-51, inus 1), Doucette 2-56, White 2-32, Davis 2-16, -5, Scott 1-15, Williams 1-4.

Pitt hires Wannstedt

PITTSBURGH -- Former Miami Dolphins coach Dave Wannstedt accepted the coaching job at his alma mater, Pitts-burgh, on Thursday, exactly a week after he turned the Panthers down and said he wasn't ready to coach again.

Wannstedt, who stepped aside by mutual agreement after Miami's record fell to 1-8, felt differently after talking to Pitt athletic director Jeff Long early in the week. The two talked extensively after that, and Wannstedt agreed to take the job after Long agreed to bump up the salaries for Pitt's assistant coaches

After Wannstedt pulled out, Long interviewed Baltimore Ravens offensive coordinator Matt Cavanaugh and Pitt defensive coordinator Paul Rhoads twice each, but Wannstedt was believed to be Pitt's first choice all along. Wannstedt was known to have the backing of Pitt chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg.

Wannstedt, a native of Baldwin, Pa., a Pittsburgh suburb, has never been a college head coach, but is a former Pitt assistant and is known to be an innovative defensive coach. He succeeds Walt Harris, who is leaving for Stanford after coaching Pitt to a 25-12 record the past three seasons — Pitt's best three-year mark since Jackie Sherrill went 33-3

Harris and Long did not get along, and it appeared unlikely Harris would return next season despite coaching the No. 19 Panthers to an 8-3 record and a surprise trip to the Jan. 1 Fiesta Bowl against No. 5 Utah.

Pitt's search for Harris' replacement lasted 10 days and, though the school in-terviewed Oklahoma co-defensive coordinator Bo Pelini, never really strayed beyond Pitt grads or former coaches associated with the school. New York Giants defensive coordinator Tim Lewis. a former Pitt and Pittsburgh Steelers assistant, and former Pitt player and assistant Sal Sunseri of the Carolina Panthers also talked with Long, who was hired 19 months ago and is making his first major hire.

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Vick gets \$100 million, 10-year deal

BY GEORGE HENRY The Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. - Michael Vick agreed to a 10-year contract worth more than \$100 million with the Atlanta Falcons that also guarantees the star quarterback an NFL-record \$37 million in bonuses, an official close to the ne-

gotiations said Thursday. Vick's contract surpasses the \$98 million deal Indianapolis quarterback Peyton Manning signed in March. Manning was guaranteed

\$34.5 million in bonuses. The deal was first reported by the Atlanta

Journal-Constitution on its Web site. The official, who requested anonymity, said

Vick reached incentives in his original contract. a six-year, \$62 million deal, that would have allowed him to void the 2005 and 2006 seasons next month. Had he done so, the 24-year-old Vick would have become an unrestricted free agent on March 2.

"We've said on numerous occasions that this franchise is committed to bringing a world championship to the city of Atlanta, the state of Georgia, as well as to building a sustainable winning organization consistently in the hunt," Falcons owner Arthur Blank said in a statement. "To day's contract extension for Michael, in our opinion, moves us closer to achieving those goals.

Vick, the No. 1 overall draft pick of 2001 out of Virginia Tech, has a 24-12-1 career record. He is

14-4 since returning from a broken ankle last year, and this season led the Falcons to their third division title in franchise history.

Atlanta earned a first-round bye in the NFC playoffs with an overtime victory over Carolina last week. The Falcons (11-3) visit New Orleans on Sunday, but Vick missed his second straight practice Thursday because of an injured left shoulder

Vick, chosen Wednesday to his second Pro Bowl, needs 80 yards to break the season record for rushing by a quarterback, set by Chicago's Bobby Douglass in 1972.

In a Week 8 victory at Denver, Vick became the first player in league history to rush for 100 vards and pass for 250 in a NFL game.



Michael Vick's contract includes an NFL-record \$37 million in bonuses.

NFC North title presents itself to Minnesota on Christmas Eve

BY DAVE GOLDBERG The Associated Press

The epitome of NFC mediocrity will be on display for the nation on Friday: Green Bay at Minnesota, two decidedly average teams playing for the

NFL picks championship the NFC North. Yes, the Pack-

ers already have clinched a playoff spot and can clinch the division with a victory. So can the Vikings, who lost the first meeting with the Packers and are tied with them at 8-6

Minnesota is favored by three points — what it gets for the home dome. The Vikings also have some trends in their favor

Brett Favre is 3-9 at the Metrodome, although the Packers are 2-2 in their past four games there. And Favre tends to play poorly in-

Minnesota also finally seems to be getting some late-season luck after a history of November and December folds. Last season, the Vikings were 6-0 and finished 9-7 missing the playoffs on a last-second touchdown by the Arizona Cardinals. Going into last week's game, they were 2-5 after going

But they won at Detroit on a bad snap on what would have been a game-tying extra point by the Lions. Then they watched Green Bay lose at home to Jacksonville because Favre threw one awful interception and the Jaguars' Deon Grant made a brilliant play to thwart another Packers drive

"We had luck on our side Daunte acknowl-Culpepper edged. "If you keep fighting, you have to get a break sometime VIKINGS 28-27

New England (minus 3) at New York Jets: The last time the Patri ots lost two games in a row, the second defeat was a 30-17 loss to the Jets in the next-to-last week of the 2002 regular season. ... PA-TRIOTS, 30-17.

San Diego (plus 7) at Indianapolis: Peyton gets the record and the Colts get the AFC's third seed, al-though third or fourth are about the same. ... COLTS, 31-27.

Baltimore (plus 6) at Pittsburgh: The Ravens are fighting for their playoff lives. The Steelers have just about wrapped up



Vikings safety Corey Chavous, celebrating an interception in Detroit last week, is trying to help Minnesota end a four-year playoff drought,

home-field for the entire playoffs. STEELERS, 17-16.

Philadelphia (plus 3) at St. Louis (Monday night): The Rams are favored because the Eagles have clinched everything and Terrell Owens is out. Even so ... EA-GLFS. 22-7.

Houston (plus 7) at Jacksonville: The Jaguars close in on the playoffs. ... JAGUARS, 17-13. Carolina (plus 3) at Tampa Ray-The Panthers still look like a play-

off team. ... PANTHERS, 27-23. Atlanta (plus 41/2) at New Orleans: This means nothing to the Falcons, so we might get Matt

Schaub instead of Michael Vick SAINTS 27-20 Arizona (plus 7½) at Seattle: Believe it or not, the Cards still can win the NFC West. They

won't. ... SEAHAWKS. 31-20. Denver (minus 4) at Tennesee: The Broncos still have a playoff shot. They're not playing that way. ... TITANS, 28-27.

Buffalo (minus 11) at San Francisco: More than a decade ago, when these two were of Super Bowl-caliber, they played a game at Candlestick with no punts. ... RILLS 41.3

Oakland (plus 7) at Kansas City: Dick Vermeil should have listened earlier to Larry Johnson's cries for playing time.

CHIEFS, 37-28. New York Giants (plus 6) at Cincinnati: Eli Manning will have a career game Short career but

GIANTS, 34-31. Washington (minus 2) at Dallas: Joe Gibbs is starting to turn around the Skins. ... REDSKINS.

Cleveland (plus 7) at Miami: This game was "off" for a while because of Cleveland's quarterback. What quarterback? ... DOL-PHINS 27-5.

Chicago (plus 6) at Detroit: This one won't depend on an extra point. ... LIONS, 20-10. Last week: 8-8 (spread), 10-6

(straight up). Season: 97-107-4 (spread), 137-71 (straight up).

NFL injury report

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Football eague injury report for Friday's game, as rovided by the league: Friday

GREEN BAY PACKERS (8-6) AT MINNESOTA VIKINGS (8-6) — Packers: OLIT: WR Robert

OAKLAND RAIDERS (5-9) AT KANSAS CITY CHIEFS (6-8) — Raiders OUT: G RON Stone (knee)*, RB Tyrone Wheatley (ham-knee)*, DE Tyler Brayton (neck)*; CB Phillip Buchanon (tailbone)*; LB Sam William (ankle); CB Charles Woodson (knee). QUES: TOMABLE: LB DeLawrence Grant (knee). vaniste): CB Chaires Woodson (Nee), UES-TIONABLE: LB DeLawrence Grant (knee): T TIONABLE: LB DeLawrence Grant (knee): T III (Abdomen): WR Dinh Stone (Amarstring), Chiefs: OUT: DE Vonnie Holliday (groin), OUBSTRUL: WR Dinhonie Motrot (knee): Siet-ome Woods (knee), OUESTIONABLE: RB Der-Chris Horn (knee): FROBABLE: LB Monty Beisel (hip flexor): TE Jason Dunn (dune): RB Outs (Marstring): Delawrence (hip): T Outs (Marstring): Delawrence (hip): T OT R Yan Sims (ankle).

DT Ryan Sims (ankle).

DENVER BRONCOS (8-6) AT TENNESSEE TITANS (4-10) — Broncos: DOUBTFUL: RB Kyle
Johnson (ankle), QUESTIONABLE: S Sam
Brandon (ankle); G Cooper Carlisle (ankle); G
D an Neil (abdomen/knee); DE Trevor
Pryce (back), PROBABLE: RB Tatum Bell
(schoulder); RB Reuben Droughis
(neck/knee); WB Triandos Luke (shoulder).
THans: QUIT: RB Chris Brown (toe); CB S:THANS: QUIT: RB Chris Brown (toe); CB S:-

IALS (5-9) AT SEATTLE SEA-

ABIZONA CARDINAL S. (**) AT SEATTLE SEA-HAWIS (**) 7- Cardinalis: CUIT CB. Renaido Hill Chack), QUESTIONABLE: DT Russell Davis (hamstring); S. Adrian Mayes (choulder); QB (hamstring); S. Adrian Mayes (choulder); QB ompson (shoulder). PROBABLE: T Leonard Davis (Gnee); DT Damell Diockett (groin); LB Gerald Hayes (illines); RE Emmitt Santo Java (State); DT Damell Diockett (groin); LB COUT: DT Marcus Tubbs (ankle); WR Jerheime Urban (foot); DE Grant Wistrom (uncom-UT); DT Marcus Tubbs (ankle); WR Jerheime Urban (foot); DE Grant Wistrom (uncom-Ville); Marcus Tubbs (ankle); WR Jerheime Urban (foot); DE Grant Wistrom (uncom-Ville); Marcus Tubbs (ankle); WR Jerheime Urban (foot); DE Grant Wistrom (uncom-Ville); Marcus (Jerheim); Marcus (Jerhei ODBAT (1904); DE GRAIT WISTOM (KRIES) DOUBTFUL: CB BOBby Taylor (knee); LB Trac; White (hamstring), QUESTIONABLE: DT ROCK; Bernard (knee); LB Chad Brown (foot), PROB ABLE: QB Matt Hasselbeck (right elbow).

ATLANTA FALCONS (11-3) AT NEW OR-LEANS SAINTS (6-8) — Falcons: QUESTION-ABLE: TE Alge Crumpler (knee); RB T.J. Duck-ett (knee); DT Edward Jasper (hand); CB Kevin Mathis (shoulder/ankle); QB Michael is (shoulder); CB Jason Webster shoulder); CB Jason Webster nts: QUESTIONABLE: TE Ernie Con-Kevin Mathis (shoulder/ankle); QB Michae Vick (left shoulder); CB Jason Webste (groin), Saints: QUESTIONABLE: TE Ernie Con well (back); T Wayne Gandy (knee); LE Sedrick Hodge (knee); G Montrae Holland (foot); S Mel Mitchell (groin); LB Orland Ruff (ankle).

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BAUT Gardes).

BAUT GAUTHER, GA-9 AT PITTSBURGHE BAUTHER, GB-9 AT PITTSBURGHE GAUTHER, GB-9 AT PITTSBURGHE, GB-9 AT PIT

Smouler; we mines ward (up):

BUFFALO BILLS (6-6) AT SAN FRANCISCO
49ERS (2-12) — Billis: OUT: C Jon Dorenbos
(knee). QUESTIONABLE: RB Travis Henry
(anxiel): RB Willis McGahee (knee). 49ers:
OUT: DE Andre Carter (back): QB Tim RAY
(foot): LB Jamle Winborn (shoulder). QUESTIONABLE: WR Arnaz Battle (thigh).

BUCCANEERS (5-9) — Panthers: QUESTION ABLE: DE Kemp Rasmussen (neck). PROBABLE: DE Kemp Rasmussen (neck). PROBABLE: DE Charles (back). Buccaneers: PROBABLE: D'Chidi Ahanotu (groin): DE Simeon Rice (ham string): DE Greg Spires (lower back).

string): DE Greg Spires (lower back).

CHCAGO BEASS (5-9) AT DETROTT LIONS
(5-9) — Beass: OUT: RB Bryan Johnson (foot).

Be Brail Witcher (humstring). S Cameron
Worrell (ankle). OUES TO MALE: CE TOOK
Worrell (ankle). OUES TO MALE: CE TOOK
(Geg): T John Tall (knee). PROBABLE: 5 TOOK
Johnson (ankle). Lions: QUESTIONABLE: CE
(ankle). PROBABLE: DT Marcus Bell (ankle).

MINISTON EVENS (See). At LARCONNULE.

HOUSTON TEXANS (6-8) AT JACKSONVILLE
JAGUARS (8-6) — Texans: OUT: G Zach Wiegert (knee). QUESTIONABLE: RB Tony Hollings
(hamstring). Jaguars: QUESTIONABLE: CB
Juran Bolden (quadricep): RB Fred Taylor
(knee). PROBABLE: S Deke Cooper (grolin);

DT Marcus Stroud (Gnee).

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (12-2) AT NEW
YORK JETS (10-4) - Patriots DOUBTFUL C8
TO Law (Good') - Suexter Réd (shoulder).

String): R8 Kevin Faulk (knee): C8 Randall
string): C9 Randall
string): C9

collection of titlescale.

NEW YORK GAINTS (5-9) AT CINCINNATI
BENGALS (6-9) — Glaints OUT; PT Norman
Hand (groin); G. officti Size (gavinflamed
and (groin); G. offici Size (gavinflamed
don Winey (concussion), DOUBTFUL D'Recrick, Allen (humanitry); Wal Jamana Taylor
edick, Allen (humanitry); Wallor
edick, G. Carson Paimer (kine). Bendiandel; Q. G. Carson Paimer (kine). PROGRA
BLLT Willie Anderson (kine); S. Kim Herring
Allen (Marchaeller); M. Carson Paimer (kine). PROGRA
BLLT Willie Anderson (kine); S. Kim Herring
Allen (Marchaeller); M. Carson Paimer (kine). PROGRA
BLLT Willie Anderson (kine); S. Kim Herring
Allen (Marchaeller); M. A

chigh; Skolvi Kaseviham (hip.).

AM Dieso Chaless (1.1-3) ar NioMAMPOLIS COLIS (1.3-1) — Chaless (1.1-3) ar Olis Colis (1.3-1) ar Olis Colis (1.3-1) ar Olis Colis (1.3-1) ar Olis Colis (1.3-1) ar Olis (1.3-1) ar Olis (1.3-1) ar Olis (1.3-1) ar Olis (1.3-1) are olis (1.3-1) ar

WASHINGTON REDSKINS (5-9) AT DALLAS DWBOYS (5-9) — Redskins: PROBABLE: LB

Springs condication). Commongs: Unit to at National Carlot and Service Science Science

Monday

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES (11-1) AT ST. LOUIS

BAMS (6-9) — Bagles: OUT: De Berrick Burs

Grown of the Bayes: OUT: De Berrick Burs

For House (11-1) AT ST. LOUIS

BAMS (6-9) — Bagles: OUT: De Berrick Burs

For House (11-1) AT ST. LOUIS

Keystone State dominance

Nine Eagles, six Steelers are headed for Honolulu

BY BARRY WILNER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Going 13-1 hasn't just assured the Eagles and Steelers of division titles. It's also made them the leaders in Pro-Bowl players.

Donovan McNabb and Terrell Owens were among nine Philadelphia players chosen for the game, the most representatives voted in for one team since 1998.

The Steelers had six Pro in results released Rowlers Wednesday.

Joining quarterback McNabb and wide receiver Owens, who had ankle surgery Wednesday and is out for the rest of the regular season and perhaps the playoffs, were tackle Tra Thomas, linebacker Jer emiah Trotter, placekicker David Akers, special teamer Ike Reese, and three of four secondary starters: cornerback Lito Sheppard and safeties Michael Lewis and Brian Dawkins

"You just try to encourage all the guys," McNabb said. "It's good to see that Lito. Mike and Ike have made it and get an opportunity to get over there and get a good feel of All-Star play and to say that they've been a Pro Bowler. It says a lot for this organization, it says a lot for those players and it says a lot for this team

"We're going to continue this thing on and continue to open up

eyes The Eagles have clinched home-field advantage for the playoffs. Pittsburgh owns the AFC North crown and had the next-most selections in balloting by players, coaches and fans. The Steelers had six: linebackers Joey Porter and James Farrior, safety Troy Polamalu, center Jeff Hartings, guard Alan Faneca and wide receiver Hines Ward That led the AFC, ahead of Baltimore and



Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb was selected to play in his fifth Pro Bowl. Nine players is the most Philadelphia has ever had in a Pro Bowl and the most for a NFL team since 1998.

Kansas City with five each, while Indianapolis and New England had four apiece.

"We do have a good team and our individual success is a direct reflection of our team," Farrior said

Green Bay, Atlanta and Dallas had four each in the NFC for the game in Honolulu on Feb. 13.

There were 25 first-time selec-For only the third time, a set of

brothers made the same Pro Bowl Cornerback Ronde Barber of Tampa Bay and running back Tiki Barber of the Giants were selected for the NFC roster - the first twins to make it.

The other brothers were Bruce and Clay Matthews in 1989 and 1990, Sterling and Shannon Sharpe from 1993-95.

Peyton Manning set a record in fan voting and was a runaway

choice for AFC quarterback, along with the Patriots' Tom Brady and the Chargers' Drew Brees.

"I certainly appreciate it," said Manning, one touchdown pass short of Dan Marino's record of 48 in a season, "I know it's voted on by my peers, by the coaches and the fans, and I'm proud to represent the Colts there

The other Colts on the AFC roster were wide receiver Marvin Harrison, running back Edgerrin James and defensive end Dwight Freeney, the league's sacks lead-

On becoming first Colts defender since end John Dutton from 1975-77 to make it two straight years, Freeney said, "You want to make it a consistent thing.

Tampa Bay linebacker Derrick Oakland CB Charles Woodson. Brooks made it for the eighth consecutive time, joining four others ing rusher with 1.511 vards, was - Jack Lambert, Lawrence Tayone of three Jets chosen, joining

Pro Bowl Roster

American Football Conference Offense

ourgh. **Tackles —** Willie Anderson, Cincinnati Ionathan Ogden, Baltimore; Willie Roaf

Kansas City.

Guards — Alan Faneca, Pittsburgh; Will
Shields, Kansas City; Brian Waters, Kansas

Shields, Karisas Org. -City.

Centers -- Jeff Hartings, Pittsburgh;
Kevin Mawae, New York Jets.

Tony, Gonzalez, Kansas Tight Ends — Tony Gonzalez, Kansas lity; Antonio Gates, San Diego. Quarterbacks — Tom Brady, New En-land; Drew Brees, San Diego; Peyton Man-

glani; brew brees, san bregor established, ning, Indianapolis. Running backs — Edgerrin James, India-napolis; Curtis Martin, New York Jets; La-Dainian Tomlinson, San Diego. Fullback — Tony Richardson, Kansas

, Miami. nterior linemen — Sam Adams, Buffalo chard Seymour, New England; Marcus nebackers — Joey Porter, Pitts-en Snikes Buffalo: Terrel

ggs, adminiot ngide linebackers — James Farrior, Pitts-rgh; Ray Lewis, Baltimore. Cornerbacks — Champ Bailey, Denver, ry James, Cincinnati; Chris McAlister. Strong safety — Troy Polamulu, Pitts-uroh: Ed Reed, Baltimore,

urgh; Ed Reed, Baltimore.

Free safeties – John Lynch, Denver.

Specialists

Punter – Shane Lechler, Oakland.

Placekicker – Adam Vinatieri, New En

gland.

Kick-return specialist – Terrence

McGee Buffalo. lor, Mike Singletary and Reggie

tion. You always want to be hum

ble by the selection, don't want it

to take away from the goal at

hand. ... I'm still at the top of my

game. I appreciate the league rec-

Two consistent Pro Bowlers, Vi-

kings wideout Randy Moss and

Bears linebacker Brian Urlacher,

did not make it, mostly because of

injuries. Also absent were such frequent Pro Bowl choices as

Green Bay OB Brett Favre, St.

Louis RB Marshall Faulk, Phila

delphia DE Jevon Kearse and

Curtis Martin, the league's lead-

Special teamer - Larry Izzo, New En-

gland.

National Football Conference
Offense
Wide receivers — Joe Horn, New Orleans; Muhsin Muhammad, Carolina; Terrell Owens, Philadelphia; Javon Walker ell Owens, Philiaucaphireen Bay.
Tackles – Orlando Pace, St. Louis;
Valter Jones, Seattle; Tra Thomas, Philia

Birk, Minnesota.

Tight ends — Alge Crumpler, Atlanta;
Jason Witten, Dallas.

Quarterbacks — Daunte Culpepper, Minnesota; Donovan McNabb, Philadelphia;
Michael Vick, Atlanta.

Running backs — Ahman Green, Green Bay; Tiki Barber, New York Glants; Shaun Alexander, Seattle. Fullback — William Henderson, Green

Defense
Ends — Bertrand Berry, Arizona; Patrick
terney, Atlanta; Julius Peppers, Carolina.
Interior linemen — La?Roi Glover, Dallas;
haun Rogers, Detroit; Kevin Williams, Minsenta

esota.

Outside linebackers — Keith Brooking,
Utlanta: Derrick Brooks, Tampa Bay; Marus Washington, Washington.

Inside linebackers — Dan Morgan, Carolina; Jeremiah Trotter, Philadelphia. as; Jeremiah Trotter, Philadelphia.

Comerbacks — Ronde Barber, Tampa
Bay; Dre' Bly, Detroit; Lito Sheppard, Phila-

elphia. Strong safety — Michael Lewis, Philadel-Free safety — Brian Dawkins, Philadel-hia: Roy Williams, Dallas.

pnia; Roy Williams, Dallas.
Specialists
Punter — Mitch Berger, New Orleans.
Placekicker — David Akers, Philadelphia.
Kick-return specialist — Eddie Drummond, Detroil.
Special teamer — Ike Reese, Philadelphia.

defensive end John Abraham and

White — who have won a Super center Kevin Mawae. Martin is Bowl, Defensive Player of the having one of the best seasons of Year and eight straight trips to a 10-year career in which he has rushed for at least 1,000 yards each time "You take it in stride," Brooks "We're in a different posi-

"It feels good to do it in your 10th year, especially at the position like running back," he said There are so many other good talented running backs in the NFL, some of whom I feel have much more talent than I do. To be chosen over some of them, it feels good."

The other AFC running back was San Diego's LaDainian Tom-

The other NFC runners were Shaun Alexander of Seattle and Ahman Green of Green Bay.

Joining McNabb as NFC quarterbacks were Michael Vick of At-

lanta and Daunte Culpepper of Minnesota Tennessee Cleveland and San Francisco had no players selected.

Dolphins offer LSU's Saban head coaching job with you." Holmgren said, adding that Rob

DAVIE. Fla. - Nick Saban took over LSU's struggling football program five years ago and delivered a championship team.



The Miami Dolphins hope he'll do the same for them. Miami offered

coaching job Wednesday to Saban, the favorite for the position since Dave Wannstedt resigned last month Saban told LSU athletic director Skip Bertman he might need until Friday to decide whether to take over one of the NFL's

"I know he wants to make as quick a decision as he can," Bertman said Thursday, "But there's no pressure on him to make a fast one, certainly none from the university. So he should think things through "The question is: Does he stay here and

continue to build, or does he take on a new challenge?"

Saban has previously said he'd prefer to have the situation resolved by Christmas Day, when LSU travels to Orlando for its bowl game against Iowa.

A Dolphins source, speaking on condi-

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis. (See Page 42 for complete injury report provided by the league): Bears: LB Brian Urlacher (hamstring) out for rest of

Bengals: RB Chris Perry (hernia) out for rest of sea-on; QB Carson Palmer (knee) questionable.

tion of anonymity, confirmed that Saban's agent. Jimmy Sexton, and team owner Wayne Huizenga met Wednesday. Huizenga confirmed the offer in a one-sentence statement

Sexton did not return phone calls to his office or cell phone.

The answering machine at Saban's home in Baton Rouge, La., was full. Saban has been courted as a NFL coach

for nearly a decade. He was approached previously by at least five teams, including a year ago by Atlanta and Chicago, but turned down every offer.

He was the first of three candidates the Dolphins interviewed.

Former Oakland Raiders coach Art Shell interviewed Monday, and interim Miami coach Jim Bates met with Huizenga on Tuesday.

Bates, preparing the Dolphins for Sun-

day's game against Cleveland, declined to discuss the situation Thursday.

Hawaii

ognizes that."

"When I started this job, the main focus was to prepare this team to win games, to improve this team, to give them a positive note going out in a tough year with every thing that has taken place," Bates said. "That is still my objective."

Rates is 2-3 since taking over as interim coach.

Seahawks WR Robinson returns after four-game suspension

KIRKLAND, Wash. - Koren Robinson said all the right things Wednesday, insisting he has learned his lesson

'It was a learning experience," the Seattle Seahawks receiver said after returning from a four-game suspension for violating the NFL's substance-abuse rules. "Don't put yourself in certain situations or stuff like that can happen."

Coach Mike Holmgren was vague about what role Robinson will play Sunday when Arizona (5-9) visits Seattle in a game that is key to the postseason prospects for both teams. The Seahawks (7-7) can secure a playoff spot with a victory.

"I haven't really decided, to be honest

inson probably will split time with Jerry Rice. "Hopefully, we can keep them both fresh that way. We need both of them to make plays."

Dallas sticking with Testaverde at OB IRVING, Texas - Bill Parcells still

thinks Vinny Testaverde gives the Dallas Cowboys the best chance to win, so he's keeping the 41-year-old quarterback as his

But Parcells might not stick with Testaverde throughout Sunday's game against the Washington Redskins.

Parcells said Wednesday he's told Tony Romo to be ready to take the first snaps of his two-year NFL career. Parcells is giving Romo "quite a bit of additional work" with the first team in practice this week.

"I'm preparing two guys to play," Parcells said.

Left out of the equation is highly touted rookie Drew Henson, who was dropped to third-string last week and will spend this week working with the scout team. Parcells said Henson might play the finale against the New York Giants.

第3種郵便物認可

BY RONALD BLUM The Associated Press

NEW YORK - J.D. Drew is set to join the Los Angeles Dodgers, while Arizona plans to put aside Randy Johnson trade talks until after Christmas.

Drew and the Dodgers have reached a preliminary agreement on a \$55 million, five-year con-tract that probably will be finalized Thursday.

Drew's contract, first reported Wednesday by The Record of Hackensack, N.J., was contingent on him passing a physical exam.



He will receive a \$2 million signing bonus and a \$9 million salary next season, then earn

\$11 million annually in the final four years. A day after meeting with New Yankees owner George

Steinbrenner in Tampa, Fla., center fielder Carlos Beltran got together Wednesday in Kissimmee. Fla., with the Houston Astros, the team he helped get within one victory of the World Series

As teams and agents worked to get deals in place before the holidays, pitcher Orlando Hernandez agreed Wednesday to an \$8 million, two-year contract with the Chicago White Sox.

In two other preliminary agreements, outfielder Moises Alou got a two-year deal with San Francisco worth about \$13.25 million and right-hander Wade Miller. cut by Houston on Monday, received a \$1.5 million, one-year contract from the Boston Red

The Yankees, who want to add Johnson to their All-Star-filled clubhouse, meanwhile finalized their \$39.95 million four-year contract with right-hander Carl Pavano. The World Series champion Red Sox completed their \$25.5 million, three-year deal with right-hander Matt Clement

Florida, which had wanted to re-sign Pavano, reached a preliminary agreement on a \$750,000. one-year contract with right-hander reliever John Reidling, who was let go by Cincinnati on Mon-

- In other free-agent news:
- St. Louis added left-hander Mike Myers (\$600,000) and kept outfielder So Taguchi (\$550,000) ■ San Diego got outfielder
- Mark Sweeney (\$575,000). ■ Cleveland agreed to minor
- league deals with right-hander Jason Bere and left-hander Billy
- Tampa Bay settle on a one-year contract with former Cleveland first baseman/designated hitter Josh Phelps.



I.D. Drew

Two players eligible for salary arbitration agreed to one-year contracts: Expos catcher Brian Schneider (\$2 million) and San Diego outfielder Dave Roberts (\$1.35 million), who was acquired from Boston this week.

Arizona, whose trade with the Dodgers and Yankees came apart Tuesday, said it isn't looking for a new partner to create a three-team deal that would send Johnson to the Yankees. Managing partner Ken Kendrick said the Diamondbacks may keep the Big Unit for 2005

"We're all in a holiday mode starting today, basically," Ken-drick said. "You never know what to expect in the baseball world. but I think right now our focus is to get to our families and let everybody have a little down time.

The Yankees were livid over the Dodgers' decision to scuttle the deal, insisting that Los Angeles had said late Monday and early Tuesday it was going ahead with the trade, which would have sent nitcher Javier Vazquez from New York to the Dodgers and outfielder Shawn Green from Los Angeles to the Diamondbacks

"After everything seemed to be agreed upon by midnight Monday, the only way it could work is if you have physicals taken by a certain time Wednesday," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "And that was not feasible - the time of year we're at, Christmas week, people out of the

Beltran and his agent, Scott Boras, spoke with Astros owner Drayton McLane, team president Tal Smith and general manager Tim Purpura at the team's spring training camp.

"This is a very good step," Purpura said. "This is a continuation of what we all knew from the beginning was going to be a long pro-

- If Houston doesn't reach an agreement with Beltran by Jan. 8, the Astros would be ineligible to re-sign him until May 1. That makes the next two weeks criti-
- "I think we're at a point with this negotiation where we have en-tertained offers from everyone," Boras said. "We're moving at a much more rapid pace."

Kunsan splits in Osan finals

Anderson outlasts men: Women top Humphries

BY DAVE ORNAUER

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea - High-scoring guards shined on Thursday, and in so doing led their respective teams to comeback wins in the 2004 Osan Pacificwide Open Holiday Basketball Tournament's championship

Cliff Claybrooks hit five three-pointers and scored 34 points, including the go-ahead basket with 2:30 left, as Guam's Andersen Bombers rallied from an 11-point second half deficit and beat Korea's Kunsan Wolf Pack 86-82 in the men's final.

Meanwhile, speed outdueled size, as diminutive MVP Amoni Sutice poured in 26 points and the Wolf Pack women came from seven points down in the first half and outran Korea's Camp Humphreys Bulldogs to a 76-66 title tri-

Andersen's championship came 15 years after Claybrooks last appearance on a Pacific title - he played for the 1990 Far East High School Class AA Tournament champion Wagner Falcons of the Philippines.

"Not bad for an ex-Far East champion," he said with a smile.

Of his hot shooting, Claybrooks said "We needed it. The first conple went in and I was on a roll after that. My teammates gave me the ball at the right time in the right place.

Claybrooks was joined by backcourt mate Michael Walters with 20 points, including four three-point goals.

None of it would have come about were it not for a variety of pressure defenses that coach Gerrard Barnes used in a successful effort to turn things around and weary a Kunsan squad that needed a 98-94 overtime win earlier Thursday over host Osan just to reach the final.

"I told the guys, 'Let's just weather the storm,' because [the Wolf Pack1 were coming off an emotional high with their win earlier in the day," Barnes said.

"I said that if we could get them late in the game, we could use the press to force turnovers. We used a 2-1-2, 2-2-1 and a 1-2-1-1, so it would confuse them The fatigue factor set in. They went one-on-one and made more mistakes than they should have.'

There were 17 lead changes and seven ties.

After Claybrooks gave Andersen the lead for good, the Bombers still had to fight to hold the edge. Jacoby McLaurin, who led the Wolf Pack with 24 points, got Kunsan back within 83-82 with a



Clifford Claybrooks (2) of Guam's Andersen Bombers goes to the hoop against James Byers (25) of Korea's Kunsan Wolf Pack. Claybrooks scored 34 points as Andersen edged Kunsan 86-82 for the Osan title.

three-point goal, then the Wolf Pack missed four close-in shots in the final seconds.

For the first 25 minutes of the women's final, the Bulldogs' size dictated play Outsized on the boards, particularly by center Yolanda Jackson, who had 15 re bounds, the Bulldogs built a 31-24 lead 3:40 before halftime. Kunsan rallied briefly, but Humphreys ran it back up to 41-34 with 15 minutes left

Then Kunsan's speed and quickness took over, and the Wolf Pack outscored the Bulldogs by 17 the rest of the way.

"Speed is always going to outscore height," Sutice said, adding that she had no doubt the Wolf Pack could come back. "I always have confidence in my team.

Coach Tre Fields shared that confidence, and credited the comeback to his team's condition-

"I never really thought we would lose," he said. "We always play better under pressure. In my mind, we weren't losing; we were

Bulldogs coach Douglass Clarks said he had a feeling that a seven-point lead wasn't good

"They [Wolf Pack] knew they were quicker than us." Clarks said. "Being big isn't the key to victory. It's a big advantage, but it's not always the the biggest advantage.

Kunsan's QiQi Dixon knotted it 46-46 with 12:05 left. Three lead changes later, Hill grabbed a rebound on the left baseline for a lay-in that made it 52-51 with 9:35 left, and the Wolf Pack led by 11 down the stretch.

Osan Pacificwide Open Holiday Tournament

At Osan Fitness and Sports Center, Osan Air Base, South Korea Men's double-elimination playoffs Thursday's games Kunsan 98, Osan 94, OT

Halftime-Osan 51, Kunsan 43, Regula-tion-Osan 87, Kunsan 87, Leading Scor-ers-Kunsan, Corie Fletcher 31, Jacoby McLau-rin 22 (15 first half), Chris Williams 21 (all secen Auflein, Contin Bellevia, 1800 M. 18, 1

urve trnee-point goals), Michaef Walfers Zč (four three-point goals), Deon Johnson 10. Marvin Harris 10: Kunsan, Jacoby McLaurin 24, Corie Fietcher 18, Jeff Roach 14 (three three-point goals), Chris Williams 13. Note-worthy-Claybrooks gave Bombers the lead for good with a driving layup, making it 81:79 with 220 left, and Melvin faley made a good with a driving layup, making i 79 with 2:30 left, and Melvin Haley made a tch steal with 8.2 seconds left for Anders There were 17 lead changes and sever

Thursday's games Camp Humphreys 48, Osan 46 ime-Osan 22, Camp Humphreys 21

Halftime-Osan 22, Camp Humphreys 21, aading scorers-Camp Humphreys, Sandra ernandez 15 (11 first hall); Osan, Kazue O-O' Dancer Championship Kunsan 76, Camp Humphreys 66 Halftime-Camp Humphreys 36, Kunsan 34, aadril g scorers-Kunsan, Amoni Sutice 26, april Hill 17, NayNay Walker 16, Melissa Val-April Hill 17, NayNay Walker 16, Melissa Validez 14; Camp Humphreys, Nieasa Wingster 17 (13 first half), Sanna Lopez 15 (fhree three-point goals), Volanda Jackson 10, Noteworthy-April Hill's rebound layup with 9:3 fett was the last of eight lead changes and put Wolf Pack up 52-51; Kunsan led by as many as 11 down the stretch.



Mondays in Stars and Stripes and on Oconus.com

Illinois gets to brag, but it's no cakewalk

ST. LOUIS - Illinois had nothing but easy victories so far this season. The top-ranked Illi-ni even cruised over the likes of Wake Forest

and Gonzaga For the first time this season, Illinois was pushed to the final minute and it was still a vic-70-64 over Missouri on Wednesday

night.
"I'd love to win every game by 20, but that's

hard," guard Deron Will-iams said, shorting his team two points off its average margin of victory. "We needed to win a game like this."

Luther Head scored 20

points and Williams had nine of his 19 over the final 3:19 to help the Illini (11-0) overcome foul problems, poor shoot-

ing and a second-half surge by the Tigers (6-5). Roger Powell Jr. had 14 points for Illinois, which matched its season-worst shooting percentage (42.3) but still won its fifth straight

over Missouri Illinois entered the game leading the country in shooting at 53 percent and the closest any opponent had come was Arkansas, which lost by 12 points. Those were things Illini coach Bruce Weber didn't think would matter

in the "Braggin' Rights" game. "It's too big of a game, and you add the extra incentive of us being No. 1," Weber said. They raised their level, they battled, they

Linas Kleiza had 25 points, one off his ca-reer best, for Missouri. He was 11-for-13 from free-throw line and had seven rebounds and three assists. He also helped put Illinois frontline in foul trouble by bulling inside for

"Linas was in an attack mode," Missouri guard Jimmy McKinney said. "His mind was set, we told him they couldn't guard him.

They couldn't do nothing but foul him." The Tigers, down 15 points at halftime, cut it to five with just under eight minutes left and

to four on Jason Horton's three-pointer with Illinois was 11-for-12 at the free-throw line down the stretch, including two by Williams with 10 seconds left for a 70-64 lead.

No. 7 Syracuse 88, Rice 72: At Syracuse, N.Y., Gerry McNamara had 19 points, 10 assists and a career-high nine rebounds and Josh Pace equaled his career high with 22 points for the Orange (11-1).

Michael Harris had 25 points and eight re bounds for the Owls (5-3), who lost at No. 11 Connecticut on Sunday.

No. 8 Kentucky 92, William & Mary 47: At Lexington, Ky., Chuck Hayes scored 18 points and Kelenna Azubuike added 17 for the Wild-

cats (8-1), who won their fourth straight. Reid Markham and Taylor Mokris each had even points for the visiting Tribe, who shot 37.2 percent and finished with a season-high

32 turnovers. No. 9 Georgia Tech 90, Charleston South-ern 48: At Atlanta, Isma'il Muhammad scored 16 points and Luke Schenscher added 14 as the Yellow Jackets (8-1) bounced back from their first loss of the season.

Kurtis Rice had 12 points for the Buccaneers (1-6)

No. 11 Connecticut 87, Cent. Connecticut 59: At Hartford, Conn., Marcus Williams had a school-record 16 assists and Josh Boone and Charlie Villanueva each scored 20 points for the Huskies (6-1)

DeMario Anderson had 23 points for the Blue Devils (2-5)

No. 12 Washington 114, Sacred Heart 53: At Seattle, Jamaal Williams scored 22 points to lead a school-record eight players in double figures for the Huskies (9-1), who won their fifth straight.

Freshman Luke Granato had 15 points all on three-pointers — for the Pioneers (1-7), who dropped their sixth straight.

No. 15 Texas 97, Centenary 52: At Austin, Texas, Kenny Taylor scored 23 points and the Longhorns (8-2) dominated with defense in the opener of a five-game holiday homestand. Kevin Taylor had 14 points for the Gents

(2-7), who trailed 42-12 at halftime. No. 18 Louisville 77, Austin Peay 49: Taquan Dean scored 16 points and Ellis Myles had 12 points and 12 rebounds for the



Missouri's Marshall Brown has his shot blocked by Illinois' Brian Randle during the first half Wednesday night. Illinois won 70-64.

Cardinals (8-2) in the championship game of their Billy Minardi Classic.

Dean, who had 20 points in the open-ing-round victory over IUPUL was selected the tournament's outstanding player.

Maurice Hampton and William Durden

each scored eight points for the Governors

No. 19 Alabama 76, Texas A&M-Corp Christi 54: At Tuscaloosa, Ala., Kennedy Win ston had 24 points and 12 rebounds for Alabama (10-1), which closed the game with a 24-4 run. Aaron White led the Islanders (7-2) with 13 points.

No. 21 Mississippi St. 95, Jacksonville St. 53: At Jackson, Miss., Lawrence Roberts had 22 points and 20 rebounds for the Bulldogs (11-2). Brandon Roberts had 15 points for the Gamecocks (4-7)

No. 22 Cincinnati 84. La Salle 63: At Cincinnati, James White and Eric Hicks each had 15 points for the Bearcats (9-0), who played in front of a home crowd held to about 2,000 by a snowstorm. Steven Smith had 35 points for the Explorers (1-7).

get away from us." Prosser said.

They made a couple of runs and

the place was ready to get loud,

but I credit the poise of my play-

New Mexico twice got within a

oint early in the second half, but

aside from Granger had trouble

scoring inside even after 6-foot-9.

291-pound Wake Forest center

Eric Williams sat out the final 17

because when Williams is in the

"Lactually think it helped them

minutes with four fouls

Jayhawks struggle as Simien is missed

BY STEVE BRISENDINE The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - A nine-day Christmas break will give Kansas some much-needed rest. It won't bring back the Jayhawks' star power forward,

though. Second-ranked Kansas will have to play two key nonconference games and a chunk of its Big 12 Conference season without Wayne Simien, beginning on New Year's Day when Georgia Tech

visits Allen Fieldhouse. "It is always going to be in the back of our minds," freshman guard Russell Robinson said after Kansas beat Wisconsin-Milwaukee 73-62 Wednesday night in its first game since Simien had surgery on his left thumb. "We still need to play with confidence,

even without Wayne Simien, injured Saturday in a 64-60 victory over South Carolina, is expected to be out 4-6 weeks. His absence was obvious in the Jayhawks' first game without him, as his replacement freshman Darnell Jackson - got in foul trouble early and didn't score or get a rebound.

"I don't think it went great, but I don't think it went terrible either," coach Bill Self said.

There were bright spots for the Jayhawks (8-0), whose game against Georgia Tech will be followed in short order by the conference opener and a trip to Kentucky

Much of the slack was taken up by two of Simien's senior class mates Keith Langford scored 21

points and Aaron Miles had nine assists to become the Big 12's career leader in that category. Still, Langford said, "I feel good

because we won - but if we continue to play that way, we will lose Jan. 1."

Miles has 800 assists: Oklaho ma State's Doug Gottlieb had 793 from 1998 to 2000.

Miles, who also had eight re-bounds, is five shy of Jacque Vaughn's school record set from 1994 to 1997, before the Big 12 was formed.

"He'd better have that in the first half against Georgia Tech,' Self said

Freshman Alex Galindo had a solid game at forward, finishing 14 points, and Robinson added 12 points.

"I feel good in my new role, said Galindo, who played a sea-son-high 17 minutes. "I will need to work on playing against bigger and stronger guys. It's going to be hard work from now on, but I liked it."

Wakes emerges from 'The Pit' with a win

BY PETE HERRERA

The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Wake Forest coach Skip Prosser has been critical of the Demon Deacons at times this season, saying they didn't play to their potential and let teams with considerably less talent stay in games.

There were no such complaints from Prosser on Wednesday night after No. 5 Wake Forest displayed poise and scoring punch in an 81-64 victory over New Mexico before a raucous sellout crowd of 18 018 in The Pit

Led by its backcourt trio of Chris Paul, Justin Gray and Taron Downey, some tenacious rebounding and a defense that harassed New Mexico into its worst

Wake Forest (10-1) pulled away in the second half

There were no signs this time of the team that struggled to put away Elon seven days earlier or the one that survived a scare at Temple on Dec. 13 before pulling out a 67-64 victory.

"We guarded very, very well," Prosser said. "This is a team that's averaging in the mid-80s and to hold them to 33 percent and 19 percent from the three, and to beat them by 13 on the glass, is the reflection of a good effort by our kids."

Paul scored 15 of his 23 points in the second half and Gray scored 17, 11 coming over a 41/2-minute stretch after he shook

off a hard fall and returned to the court with the Demon Deacons leading 48-45.

"It got me going a little bit," Gray said of the hit he took. "There was a lot of pushing around, so when I got bumped up a little bit, it told me to take my game to another level and to play with higher intensity.'

Danny Granger had 24 points and nine rebounds for the Lobos

Grav and Paul, who combined for nine of Wake Forest's 10 three-pointers, carried the of-fense every time New Mexico made a run in the second half. Downey finished with 16 points, doing most of his damage with 12 in the first half.

"We talked to our three guards

game, their whole focus is to get the hall inside." New Mexico coach Ritchie McKay said. "With one less scorer out there, Paul and Gray had a green light." Williams scored just six points, the first time this season he failed to reach double figures.

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Image: Youth, wealth blamed for woes

IMAGE, FROM BACK PAGE

Many of the youngsters coming into the league lack fundamentals, making their first few years an on-the-job training program. Some never learned the life lessons necessary for the adult world, either, put on pedestals at

increasingly young ages.

Couple that with the huge salaries players get these days and there can be problems. Teenagers who had to ask their parents for spending money only a year or two ago are suddenly millionaires carrying \$100 bills for pocket change. Tricked-out SUVs are a given, and some players sport

more bling than Jennifer Lopez.

"I really do think that the perception from the fans is that players are selfish, that the only thing that matters is the money — because the money has gotten so big—and the players don't really respect or care about the fans," said Chicago Bulls general manager John Paxson, who won three NBA titles as a player.

"I don't think that's necessarily the reality, but as they say, perception is reality."

ception is reamly.

The personal antics don't help.

Kobe Bryant no longer faces criminal charges, but he's still being sued by a woman who claims he raped her. Police had to use a stun gun on Michael Olowokandi last month to get him to leave an Indianapolis bar.

Carmelo Anthony has been in a bar fight, charged briefly with drug possession after a friend's marijuana was found in his backpack and seen on a homemade DVD with a man who warns that people who tip police about drug deals "get a hole in their head" and that's just since September.

Latrell Sprewell said "I've got my family to feed" when he demanded the Minnesota Timberwolves extend the contract that pays him \$1.46 million this year, then got suspended for yelling a sexual vulgarity at a female fan. A week after signing a six-year, \$84 million contract extension



A week after signing a six-year, \$84 million extension with Portland, Zach Randolph had to pay his own way to Toronto after missing a team flight when he overslept. with Portland, Zach Randolph had to find his own way to a game in Toronto because his alarm clock didn't go off and he missed the team flight.

the team tingnt.
And, of course, there's the brawl. Ron Artest, last year's de-fensive player of the year, has been suspended for the rest of the season after charging into the stands in Detroit and punching a fan he thought had thrown a drank at him, and eight to the players got suspensions ranging from eight to 30 games. Five Indiana Pacers are facing charges, and the civil

lawsuits are already starting.
"Any professional sport has a problem to some degree when an incident like this takes place," San Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "The salaries that professional athletes make can be a problem if players aren't aware of what that responsibility might be, what comes along with that

contract. Some players understand it, some teams understand it, some don't.

"But to make a broad stroke,
"The NBA or this sport or those
players have a problem,' I think,
is dangerous."

Even if fans are grumbling, they haven't turned their backs on the NBA. Ratings for Game 5 of the NBA Finals was the second-highest since 1998, and the entire series drew its highest ratings in three years.

ings in three years.
According to Forbes magazine's
annual valuation of the league, the
average franchise is now worth
\$302 million, a 14 percent increase from the previous year.
Forbes also said teams made an average of \$44 million on licensing

in 2003, up 20 percent.
"There probably are still some people holding out, saying, 'I remember sports when people played for the glory of sport

But most people are sophisticated to understand why it's the business that it is," said Ken Shropshire, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School who specializes in sports

There is still plenty about the league that's good, too. No other pro sport is as accessible, with fans seated right at courtside and no hats or helmets to obscure players' faces. LeBron James has more than lived up to his considerable hype — on and off the court.

And on the same day the Pistons and Pacers were fighting with fans, New Jersey's Richard Jefferson offered to replace a 5-year-old girl's wheelchair after he learned it had been destroyed

during a school field trip.
"You just can't condemn the other guys. You can't say, 'Hey, you knucklehead, I don't want to

deal with you," "Davis said. "You have to pull them aside and say, "There were guys before you who worked real hard so you can be in the position you're in today. Don't let them down by making bad decisions, whether it's on the court

let them down by making bad decisions, whether it's on the court or off the court.'"

But one of those guys who paved the way for the NBA's phenomenal success in the last two decades has no doubt the kids

It's not easy making the jump from high school to the pros, either on the court or off, Pacers president Larry Bird said. Give the young players some time, and they'll figure it out, Bird said.

will be all right.

"I've got a good feeling that the league, in a couple of years, is going to be a lot better than it is today," he said. "Some of the young players, they're only going to get better. They're great players now, but they'll figure it out and get better."





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James' strong game spoiled by late mistakes

The Associated Press

The box score showed LeBron James with 23 points, nine rebounds and nine assists. What it didn't show were the litany of mistakes he made in the final 2 minrites - the last of which helned cost the Cleveland Cavaliers a

Richard Jefferson capped the highest scoring night of his career by using a pick to free himself from James before hitting an allev-oop lavup off an inbounds pass with 0.8 seconds left, giving the New Jersey Nets a 92-90

home victory Wednesday night. It was a frustrating finish for the Cavs, and especially for James.

The second-year star's mistakes included committing two traveling violations, drawing a technical foul, missing a foul shot and a field-goal attempt, and not sticking with Jefferson on the crucial inbounds play.

"It's disappointing because we fought so hard to get back in this game," James said, "I don't want to take anything away from them because they played well, but this was another one we let slip away.

Jefferson had 42 points and shot 12-for-20 from the field and

16-for-17 from the line for the Nets, who also got a career-high 22 points from Rodney Buford. Vince Carter, acquired last week from Toronto, was sidelined by a sore Achilles' tendon. He expects to make his Nets debut Monday night against Detroit.

James was livid that referee Marc Davis whistled him for two traveling violations and a techni-

"Those are great moves, I don't care what anybody says. I've been doing those moves since I've been playing basketball. I thought they gave you an extra step in the NBA, even though I didn't take one," James said.

James had a dunk and then made one of two free throws to tie it at 90 with 43.6 seconds left. A missed jumper by Buford led to a jump ball with 17.5 seconds left, and the Cays controlled it.

James missed a 10-foot runner, and New Jersey rebounded and called timeout with 1.5 seconds remaining to set up an inbounds play on which Jefferson lined up near the free throw line. Jason Kidd set a pick on James, and Jeff McInnis failed to pick up Jefferson when James didn't fight through the screen.

Cleveland had a final chance.



but Lucious Harris' three-point attempt was long.

76ers 102, Pacers 90: At Indianapolis, Allen Iverson scored 40 points, ending his streak of 50-point games at two, and Philadelphia rallied with a closing 19-2

surge. Iverson was looking to become just the third player in NBA histo-ry to score 50 or more points in

three straight games. SuperSonics 98, Nuggets 83:

At Seattle, Rashard Lewis scored 21 points, Ray Allen added 20 points and Vladimir Radmanovic had 19 to help the SuperSonics improve to 19-5 Andre Miller led the Nuggets

with 20 points. Denver played without forward Carmelo Anthony, who missed his third straight game after spraining his left

Raptors 98, Jazz 86: At Toronto, Donyell Marshall scored 12 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter, and Chris Bosh added 18

points for Toronto. Carlos Boozer had 29 points and 10 rebounds for Utah.

Celtics 114, Knicks 109: At Boston, Mark Blount scored 22 points, Paul Pierce added 21, and Kendrick Perkins had a career high 13 rehounds for the

Celtics. Nazr Mohammed had 22 points and 18 rebounds, and Jamal Crawford scored 25 for New York, which blew a 14-point

first-quarter lead

Magic 93. Spurs 87: At Orlando, Fla., Steve Francis scored 29 points to help Orlando snap a seven-game losing streak against the Spurs

Tony Battie had 11 rebounds, and his defense on Tim Duncan kept the two-time MVP from being a factor down the stretch. Duncan led the Spurs with 24 points, but didn't score after a free throw with 5:58 remaining.

Hawks 113, Mavericks 100: At Atlanta, Antoine Walker scored 25 points, and the Hawks snapped a five-game losing streak. Al Harrington added 17 for Atlanta.

Bulls 89, Pistons 82: At Au-burn Hills, Mich., Ben Gordon scored 19 points, and fellow reserve Tyson Chandler had 13 points and 11 rebounds as Chicago won its fifth straight game.

The Bulls hadn't won five in a row since Michael Jordan led them on a 14-game run during the 1997-98 championship sea-

Bobcats 90, Rockets 87: Emeka Okafor had 21 points and 11 rebounds, and Jason Kapono added 16 to lead the expansion Bobcats to their first road win.

Okafor had his 14th consecutive double-double, tying Shaquille O'Neal for the second-longest streak by a rookie in NBA history Lakers 101, Hornets 89: At

Los Angeles, Chucky Atkins scored a season-high 30 points. Chris Mihm had 21 rebounds to match the highest total in an NBA game this season. Kobe Bryant had his second

straight off-shooting night, but scored 17 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter for the Lakers.

Warriors 109 Grizzlies 99: At Oakland, Calif., Jason Richardson scored 24 points, and Troy Murphy had 19 points and 13 re-bounds to help the Warriors snap their four-game losing streak. Trail Blazers 104, Bucks 95:

At Milwaukee, Nick Van Exel had season highs with 26 points and six three-pointers, and Zach Randolph added 22 points for Port-

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Divisi Pct .500 .480 .440 .360 .357 W L 13 13 12 13 11 14 9 16 10 18 .741 .600 .583 .318 15 11 .577 12 12 .500 12 12 .500 Chicago Milwaukee 9 15 .375

Meatern conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	20	6	.769	-
Dallas	17	10	.630	31/2
Houston	12	14	.462	8
Memphis	12	16	429	9
New Orleans	-2	23	.080	171/2
Northwest Division				
Seattle	19	5	.792	-
Minnesota	15	9	.625	4
Portland	13	12	.520	61/2
Denver	13	13	.500	7
Utah	11	16	.407	91/2
Pacific Division				
Phoenix	22	3	.880	-
Sacramento	17	- 7	.708	41/2
L.A. Lakers	14	11	.560	8
L.A. Clippers	12	12	.500	91/2
Golden State	8	18	.308	141/2
Wednesday's games				

Toronto 98, Utah 86 Boston 114, New York 109 Philadelphia 102, Indiana 90 Orlando 93, San Antonio 87 Atlanta 113, Dallas 100 Chicago 89, Detroit 82 New Jersey 92, Clevela Portland 104, Milwauk Portland 104, Milwaukee 95 Charlotte 90, Houston 87 Seattle 98, Denver 83 Golden State 109, Memphis 99 L.A. Lakers 101, New Orleans 89 Thursday's games Minnesota at San Antonio Memphis at Phoenix

Minnesota a Phoenix
Mamil at Sacramento
Memphis at Priday's games
No games scheduled
Detroit at Indiana
Miamil at LA, Lakers
Sunday's games
Charlotte at New York
Chicago at Milwaukee
Bosson at San
Western at Cleveland

Boston at San Antonio New Orleans at Cleveland Toronto at Phoenix Washington at Minnesota L.A. Clippers at Houston Dallas at Denver Golden State at Sacramento Charlotte at Washington

Charlotte at Washington New York at Orlando New Orleans at Indiana Atlanta at Miami New Jersey at Detroit L.A. Clippers at Memphis Seattle at Utah Philadelphia at Portland Denver at Golden State

Wednesday Raptors 98, Jazz 86

UTAH - Harpfing 6-12-21 41, Boozer 11-20 "TAH - Harpfing 6-12-21 41, Boozer 11-20 "7-11-29, Baddyevic 2-3-0-4, Bell 4-12-61-9, Baddyevic 2-3-0-4, Bell 4-12-61-9, "1-2-11, Girleck 7-0-4, Berchardt 0-3-2-2.2 Totals 3-8-81 12-19-86. TORONTO - EWilliams 4-6-2-4 11, Bosh 6-14-6-8 18, Woods 1-2, 7-24, Peterson 3-7-60-6 5-6-0-12, Murray 7-3-4-9, Palica 7-4-0-4, Bonner 1-3-0-0, As.Williams 0-2-0-0, Totals 3-70-2-3-998.

Toronto 28 22 20 28—98
Three-Point Goals—Utah 2-10 (Bell 1-2, Lopez 1-4, Harpring 0-2, Giricek 0-2), Toronto 9-20 (Marshall 4-8, Rose 2-2, Ewilliams 1-1, Peterson 1-3, Alston 1-3, Bosh 0-1, Murray 0-2), Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Utah 49 (Okur 15), Toronto 47 (Bosh, Marshall, Ewilliams 8). Assist—Utah 20 (Lopez, Boozer 5), Toronto 29 (Alston 14), Total fouls—Utah 18, Toronto 20. A-17479 (19,800).

Celtics 114, Knicks 109

NEW YORK — T.Thomas 7-12 2-3 19, K.Thomas 7-13 0-0 14, Mohammed 6-12 10-11 22, Marbury 5-17 2-3 12, Crawford 9-17 2-2 25, Houston 3-10-0-6, Sweetney 3-5.1-1 7, Baker 0-0 0-0 0, Ariza 0-2 0-0 0, Norris 1-2 0-0 2, Williams 1-1 0-0 2, Totals 42-91 17-20 109. mms 1-1 u-0.2. Totals 42-91 17-20 109. BOSTON - Jefferson 47-44 12, Welsch 0-3 1-2 1, Blount 10-16 2-4 22, Payton 7-11 3-5 17. Pierce 8-14 3-5 21, Perkins 2-4 0-0.4, Davis 4-16 6-5 14, Allen 0-1 2-2 2, Banks 3-5 4-4 11. New York 34 24 25 25-109 Boston 34 24 25 25-109 Boston 23 27 30 34-114

Beston 23 27 39 34—114
Three-Point Goals—New York 18 16 Crawford 5-9, T.Thomas 3-4, Houston 6-1, Marbury
6-04, Boston 5-14 (McCatry 2-4, Pierce 2-4,
Banks 1-1, Allen 6-1, Payton 6-1, Davis 6-9,
Tocaled out -Mone, Rebounds—New York 48
sists—New York 20 (Marbury 10), Boston 23,
Sists—New York 20 (Marbury 10), Boston 25,
Boston 19, Technicals—Boston Defensive
Three Second. 4–15,655 (16,824)

Hawks 113, Mavericks 100

DALLAS — Howard 6-12 9-11 23, Nowitzki 7-19 7-8 23, Dampier 1-4 2-2 4, Terry 9-14 1-2 3, Finley 4-13 1-1 10, Daniels 4-4 2-3 10, Hend-erson 2-3 0-0 4, Harris 0-1 1-2 1, Bradley 0-0 0-00, Armstrong 0-5 2-2 2, Booth 0-0 0-00. To-tals 33-7 2-5-31 100.

tals 33-75 25-31 100. ATLANTA — Harrington 8-13 1-3 17, Walker 10-17 4-9 25, Collier 1-2 1-1 3, Ivey 2-3 1-2 5, J.Smith 5-9 4-8 14, Drobnjak 0-2 2-2 2, Delk 6-16 1-2 14, Anderson 2-5 0-9 5, Childress 6-9 4-4 16, Willis 6-10 0-0 12. Totals 46-86 18-31

76ers 102. Pacers 90

PHILADELPHIA — Iguodala 3-7 0-0 8, Tho-mas 2-5 0-0 4, Dalembert 2-3 3-4 7, Green 2-9 0-0 4, Iverson 12-23 14-16 40, M.Jackson 7-11 4-4 18, Korver 2-50-0 5, Williamson 4-13 0-0 8, Ollie 2-2 4-4 8, McKie 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 36-78

1-1 of U. Carry to 9 to (ain to 9 of to 1 in 19 of to 1 in

Magic 93, Spurs 87

SAN ANTONIO — Bowen 4-8 0-0 10, Duncan 11-22 2-6 24, Nesterovic 1-6 0-0 2, Ginobili 4-13 5-7 14, Parker 8-17 2-3 18, Brown 2-9 3-5 7, Rose 4-8 1-4 9, Udrih 1-3 0-1 3, Barry 0-3 0-0 0, Wilks 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 35-89 13-26 87. ORLANDO (33)

OKLANDO (93)
Hill 3-6 7-8 13, Howard 1-9 3-4 5, Battle 4-10.
1-1 9, Mobbley 5-11 0-0 11, Francis 8-21 13-17.
29, Turkoglu 7-11 0-0 16, Kasun 2-2 0-0 4, Garrity 0-1 0-0 0, Nelson 3-6 0-0 6. Totals 33-77.
24-30 93.

minume 19 21 24 23—81 Orlando Triese-Point Gols-San Antonio 4-12 Gowen 2-3, Udrih 1-1, Ginobil 1-5, Parker Gowen 2-3, Udrih 1-1, Ginobil 1-5, Parker Mobbley 1-2, Francis 0-4), Fouled out-None. Debourds—5 and Antonio 62 (Vesterovic 11), Grando 1-5, Orlando 1-5, Orlando 1-5, Orlando 1-5, Technicals—5 orlando Delay Of Game 2, Turkoglu. A-8, 23 (17, 94) 4-30 93.
San Antonio 19 21 24 23-87
Orlando 16 30 18 29-93
Three-Point Goals—San Antonio 4-12

Bulls 89. Pistons 82

Bulls 89, Pistons 82

PINCAGO - Deng 34.4 10, Davis 27.6 9.4,
Curry 5-9.2 112, Hinrich 3-82.2 10, Duhn of Land
Curry 5-9.2 112, Hinrich 3-82.2 10, Duhn of Land
Curry 5-9.2 112, Hinrich 3-82.2 10, Duhn of Land
Curry 5-9.2 112, Hinrich 3-82.2 10, Duhn of Land
Curry 5-9.2 112, Hinrich 3-9.2 112, Hinrich 3-9.1 112, Hinrich 3-9.1 112, Hinrich 3-9.1 112, Hinrich 3-9.1 112, Hinrich 2-9.1 Hi

Nets 92, Cavaliers 90

CLEVELAND - Newble 7:12 o 2:14, Gooden 6:10 22:14, Ilgussias 2:9 4-4.8, James 7:18, Varigin 1:10 0:25, Show 1:3:04 2:10, Williams 0:1-121, Diop 2:6:0-6.4, Totals 3:2-94 2:2-7:90. MINU JRSST - Jefferson 1:2-0.16 1:7-42, Cultiss 4:9-7:2-10, Kestle 4:8-9-0.8, Budned 10:18 1:0-10, Show 1:0-10,

28 10 29 23-90 18 31 19 24-92 Cieveland
New Jersey
New Jersey
Three-Point Goals-Clevyland 4-12 (MelmaThree-Point Goals-Clevyland 4-12 (MelmaThree-Point Goals-Clevyland 4-12 (MelmaThree-Point Goals-Clevyland September 16-12 (MelmaThree-Point Goals-Clevyland September 16-12 (MelmaThree-Point Goals-Clevyland September 16-12 (MelmaThree-Point Goals-Clevyland September 17-12 (MelmaThree-Point Goals-C

Trail Blazers 104, Bucks 95

PORTLAND - Miles 6-11 1-2 D4CRS 375 PORTLAND - Miles 6-11 1-2 040 9-144-42, Ratliff 3-63-59, Anderson 3-7 3-4 9, 14, Van Exel 9-17 2-2 26, Patterson 3-7 3-4 9, Stoudamire 2-8-3-3 8, Przybilla 6-0-2-0, Out-law 1-1 0-0 2, Telfair 0-0-0-0. Totals 38-75 16-22 104.

law 1-1, 9-0.7, reliair 0-0 0-0. Totals 38-75.

MMWAUKEE MASON 7-15-7-3 16, Smith F-5-7-2-18, (Andaturic 6-9 0-11, Redd 2-10-1), F-5-7-2-18, (Andaturic 6-9 0-11, Redd 2-10-1), F-5-7-2-19, F-5-7-2-19 (Anderson 9), Milwaukee 23 (R. James 4), Total fouls—Portland kee 18. Technicals—Milwaukee Three Second. A—13,789 (18,717).

Bobcats 90, Rockets 87

CHARLOTTE – Okafor 8-20 5-5 21, Wallace 1-3-0-0 2, Brezec 7-12 0-2 14, Knight 4-9 1-1 9, Bogans 3-8 3-6 9, Rush 0-4 0-0 0, Kapono 7-12 0-0 16, Sampson 1-2-0-0 2, Hart 3-4 6-8 14, Ely 0-4-0-0 0, S.Smith 1-2 0-0 3, Totals 35-80 15-25 90.

90. HOUSTON — J.Jackson 6-13 0-0 15, Howard 1-8 0-0 2, Yao 7-14 6-8 20, Sura 7-14 1-2 17, McGrady 6-17 11-17 25, Lue 1-6 0-0 2, Mutombo 0-0 0-0 0, Taylor 3-7 0-0 6, Nachbar 0-0 0-0, Ward 0-0 0-0 0, Padgett 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 31.80 18.27 8. 31-80 18-27 87.

1-80 18-27 87.

Charlotte 16 22 28 24-90
Houston 23 21 18 25-87
Three-Point Goals-Charlotte 5.76 Houston 1 Galls - Charlotte 5-10
Tagene-Point Galls - Charlotte 6-10
Tagene-Point Galls - Charlotte 6-

Sonics 98, Nuggets 83

DENVER - D.Johnson 3-8 2-2 8, Martin 8-12 2-2 18, Camby 1-4 1-23, Buckner 0-0-0 0, Mill-er 8-11 4-4 20, Nene 2-3 3-9 7, Boykins 1-9 0-0 2, Elson 0-1 2-2 2, White 8-20 0-0 17, Russell 2-5 0-0 6, Tskitishvili 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 33-73 14-21 83. SEATTLE — Evans 3-4 0-3 6. Lewis 7-15 5-5 SEATTLE — Evans 3-4 0-3 b, Lewis 7-10 3-0 1, James 2-3 0-0 4, Allen 7-20 4-20, Ridnour 11 0-0 4, Murray 6-13 3-4 15, Radmanovic 14 2-2 19, Fortson 1-1 1-2 3, Collison 2-4 2-2 Kutluay 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 37-85 17-22 98. Tonuger 15 23 31 14-83

Totals 37-65 17-22 9.

Denver 15 23 31 14-83
Seattle 24 29 26 19-98
Three-Point Goals-Denver 3-11 (Russell 2-2, White 1-3, Boykins 0-3, DJohnson 0-3), Seattle 7-21 (Radmanovic 3-6, Lewis 2-6, Allen 2-7, Murray 0-2), Fouled out-Fortson. Rebounds-Derver 44 (Martin 7), Seattle 56 (Evans 12), Assists-Denver 19 (Miller 7), Seattle 15 (Ridnour 5), Total fouls-Denver 21, and 19 (Miller 7), Seattle 56 (Miller 7), Seattle 57 (Miller 7), Seattle 57 (Miller 7), Seattle 58 (Miller 8), Seattle 70 (Miller 8), Seat Seattle 24. Technicals—Elson, Nene, Mari Fortson. A—17,072 (17,072).

Warriors 109, Grizzlies 99

THAIR TOTS 109, WILLIAM STATE AND THAIR TH

29 25 20 25- 99 21 23 35 30-109 Memphis Golden State Golden State
Three-Point Goals—Memphis 13-16 (Battler 1-3, Williams 1-4, Possy 17-7, Miller 0-2), Gold-1-13, Williams 1-4, Possy 17-7, Miller 0-2), Gold-1-14, Williams 1-4, Possy 17-7, Miller 0-2), Gold-1-14, Golden State 1-4, Golden State 1-4, Sessy 0-31, Foulied out -- Robinson, Rebounds—Memphis 49 (Swift 8), Golden State 43 (Murphy 13), Assists—Memphis 21 (Williams 1-4), Golden State 1-4, Golden State

Lakers 101, Hornets 89

Lakers 101, Hornets 89
MW 061EAR - Nallor 7146-18 i. Anderson 15-15-21 Berown 718-09 i. Wesley 7-21
15-15-21 Berown 718-09 i. Wesley 7-21
15-15-21 Service 15-20 i. Service 15-2

SPORTS



Dolphins offer coaching job to LSU's Saban; Pitt hires Wannstedt, Pages 41, 43





From courtside brawls to courtroom battles, NBA's image needs a boost after ugly 2004

BY NANCY ARMOUR The Associated Press

At least the "Bad Boys" kept their shenanigans on the court when they were wreaking havoc in the NRA

Nowadays there are enough mug shots out there to spawn a new trading card industry. Players are doing and saying things that defy common sense, annoying fans with their high-priced whines.

Wins seem to rank only slightly ahead of endorsement opportunities and monster contracts, and those "knuckleheads" Karl Malone once dissed haven't gotten a clue vet.

Even the Christmas Day games, once a showcase for the class of the league, have attitude. One game is Kobe vs. Shaq, dueling egos that helped bring down what could have been the NBA's next dynasty.

The other is the first meeting of the Pistons and Pacers since that Nov. 19 brawl that spilled into the stands, one of the ugliest fights in sports history.

What happened to all that love and goodwill created by Michael, Magic and Bird?

"People don't realize the things we do as players can really affect a lot of lives," said Antonio Davis, first vice president of the players union. "We're not trying to take away their own sense of self. If



The NBA's image has taken some hits this year, starting with a sexual assault trial against Lakers star Kobe Bryant, top. Police had to use a stun gun on the Timberwolves Michael Olowokandi, above, when he refused to leave an Indianapolis bar last month. The Nuggets' Carmelo Anthony, right, was in a bar fight, briefly charged with marijuana possession and seen on a homemade DVD where a man warns that people who snitch on drug dealers get "a hole in their head."

you want to braid your hair, wear your jeans hanging off your butt, do some of those things because

they're you, that's fine. "But regardless of what organization, corporation you work for. you can't go out and have run-ins with the law, hurt the people that drive your business," Davis said.

You just can't do some of those

Like everything else in society,

the NBA goes through cycles. This latest one seems to be driven, largely, by the influx of younger players. The average age in the league has dropped by almost a year down from 27.82 in 1998 to



27.028 this year.

More and more kids are jump-ing straight from high school to the pros - a record eight were taken in last summer's draft, all in the first round — and those who do go to college rarely stay all four years.

SEE IMAGE ON PAGE 46



No. 1 Illinois hangs on to beat Missouri, win 'Braggin' Rights' Page 45



Nine Eagles. six Steelers headed to Hawaii for Pro Bowl

Page 43



reach five-year, \$55 million agreement

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